

WASHINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

November 16, 2023, 9:00 a.m., Commission Board Room

1331 South Blvd., Chipley, FL 32428

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

1. PROCLAMATION

- 1.1 Call to Order – Chairman Hawkins
- 1.2 Invocation – Danny Jackson
- 1.3 Pledge
- 1.4 Reorganization of the Board – Fuqua and Milton, P.A.

Present – Commissioners Bush, Pettis, Hawkins, Griffin, and Corbin. Also attending – Deputy Clerk Brantley and Clerk of Court, Lora Bell.

Commissioner Bush offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Hawkins, and unanimously carried to appoint David Pettis as chairman.

Commissioner Bush offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Hawkins, and unanimously carried to leave David Corbin as vice-chairman.

2. PUBLIC HEARING – None3. ADOPT THE AGENDA

Additions – Burn Ban – Commissioner Hawkins – Justin Leach will supply an update.

Delete 6.10 – County Administrator Massey

4. ADOPT PREVIOUS MINUTES

- 4.1 Final Budget Hearing for October 2, 2023
- 4.2 Special Board Meeting for October 9, 2023
- 4.3 Workshop for October 12, 2023
- 4.4 Regular Board Meeting for October 19, 2023

Commissioner Corbin offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Griffin, and unanimously carried to approve the above-referenced minutes.

5. 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 which is not currently before the Board/Agenda. To do so the community members should, prior to 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.

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- Each individual shall have three (3) minutes to speak about a proposition before the Board. Prior to 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 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, pros, or cons, regarding a county employee who does not report directly to the Board shall be addressed to the Human Relations Department or the County Administrator. Attorney Fuqua
- Benita Crittendon suggested that the county was in an information war/selective dissemination of information. (Requested to speak beyond the 3-minute limit) At a recent special meeting, the application for an extension for FEMA was discussed. Two commissioners and two citizens asked if there was an investigation that was causing the hold-up, and the response was no. At the next meeting, Kevan Parker spoke regarding an issue about half an inch of asphalt, which was a red light because it was not on the agenda. She and other citizens contacted DEM directly and asked what was going on in Washington County. The response was that there was an active inquiry. Three of the commissioners were contacted and were not aware of it. The commissioners contacted DEM and were updated on information that they had not been provided by the chairman or the county administrator. Since the last board meeting, FEMA reimbursements have stopped because there are inconsistencies and questions about FEMA projects and how they were performed. The \$6,000,000.00 loan has been exhausted since the last meeting. Discussion regarding a \$12,000,000.00 loan is on today's agenda and the status of reimbursements is unknown. A meeting was held last Thursday, which included Wheeler Emergency Management, engineers, the county administrator, the chairman, and FEMA DEM personnel. To date, there are no minutes for the meeting or an explanation from one commissioner/possibly two to explain what occurred in that meeting. There was a request for commissioners to attend the meeting, which was understandably denied since it would be a violation of the sunshine law. The DEM Coordinator had been talking to the chairman for weeks before that and he knew it when the question was asked. The county administrator should have updated the commissioners when this was known. Commissioners Pettis, Corbin, and Griffin had to contact Mr. Massey and ask him. Beyond that, the chairman at the time should have called a special public meeting. There is a selective dissemination of information to keep certain people in the dark. There is a lot of corruption and cover-up right now in Washington County. It is well known that there is an FBI

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investigation and now there is a FEMA investigation. The halt of reimbursements of FEMA funds could cause the county to be on the brink of bankruptcy if things do not change quickly and the chairman is aware of that. There is time for cleaning in Washington County. Washington County has been infiltrated by the Jackson County Mafia. Wheeler Emergency Management, HMB Engineers, and the county attorney (who is believed to be compromised in his firm) need to go and the chairman should resign.

Chairman Pettis told the next speaker, Troy Cunningham that he would allow him an additional 2 minutes and 55 seconds, which is the additional time Mrs. Crittendon had if he would like.

- Troy Cunningham, Country Oaks Fire Chief told the board that he had been before them several times and had not been contacted by any of them. For 6 months he has requested a meeting with Mr. Massey and has yet to receive a phone call. The process is to go through the county administrator. Not having a meeting with Mr. Massey is hindering him from doing what he needs him to do regarding addressing his issues. The Fire Department's 2023 fiscal year-ending balance should carry exactly to their contingency fund and the department is around \$1,500.00 under from last year's ending balance to the new 2024 contingency fund balance. This has been occurring for years. Upwards of \$60,000.00 has disappeared and nobody has been able to account for it. How have certain departments used \$100,000.00 from their contingency to better their facility? In two years, their contingency balance is \$100,000.00. The departments only receive \$20,000.00 - \$30,000.00. How does that work when money has to be spent to run the department? There are more problems since the money has been turned over to the county to manage.

Country Oaks has been in business for 30 years and has not received an infraction on their funding or the expenditure of their 501 (c) (3). The department has been demanded to remove a piece of apparatus that has been stored at another facility by November 20. There is no paperwork showing that the Country Oaks Fire Department spent money on the apparatus. \$10,000.00 disappeared from their account and went to Springfield where they had never purchased anything from. Nobody has told him what the money was used for. According to the county, there is a piece of apparatus that they are responsible for; there is a \$5,000.00 bill at 10-8 that the county wants to charge to their account for something they did not approve to be fixed. The truck is still awaiting a pump test that was never performed. Why would \$7,500.00 - \$30,000.00 be spent on the truck when they do not know if the truck works correctly? A second opinion should be obtained.

Country Oaks recently acquired a new apparatus, thanks to donors. The department has acquired two new pieces of apparatus, but he has been unable to get to his funds to use for fuel to go and pick up the apparatus from Ohio.

- Andrew Darling told the board he purchased property in Washington County in 2022. In 2021, the property taxes were \$491.00, and in 2022, \$914.00. After purchasing the property, he came in to make sure all the adequate paperwork

was filed and asked the clerk if he had a homestead exemption on the property to which he was told yes. It was on the property but under the previous owner's name, which was removed when the new tax year started. The property was reassessed and valued higher based on the sale. In 2023 he filed to have the Homestead Act reapplied, but the department was unable to do so until 2024 due to filing after the cutoff limit. The current taxes are \$1,206.00, which is a 31.9% increase after an 85% one the year before. Who failed in this situation? The request before the board is to backdate the homestead due to improper information from the clerk. How can the commission approve a 31.9% increase? The millage was raised by the county commission by 11% last year and the school board also increased the millage.

Commissioner Pettis advised that the property appraiser would be of assistance regarding this. The millage had not been raised in a few years.

Commissioner Bush said the property values probably went up, which is set by the property appraiser and is where the homestead is controlled. The board sets the millage rate, which was not changed.

Commissioner Pettis asked Mr. Darling to leave his contact information.

6. AGENDA ITEMS

6.1 Legislative Update – Chris Carmody, Gray Robinson, P.A. – The successful projects for Washington County last year include Duma Jack Road for \$2.5 million and tanker pumpers for \$808,000.00. The annex drainage for \$700,000.00 was vetoed. An option for \$5,000,000.00 is being looked at, which is recurring funds, and Washington County is one of five that can tap into that.

Two more committee weeks are remaining. Sessions will begin on January 9 for 60 days. Super Tuesday is March 5, which is in the middle of the legislative session. March 19 is the Florida Presidential Preference which is the week after the session ends.

Appropriations regarding the fire department, mitigation at the government building, and Phase II for Duma Jack have been timely filed in the House and the Senate.

Commissioner Hawkins said two projects have been previously approved for Crystal Lake. The project is now in jeopardy of not having enough funds to complete the project due to inflation. Is there a chance of seeking additional funding?

Chris Carmody said from a procedural perspective the time has passed. The Senate has a form that can be filed minutes before the budget is published making one eligible for that budget.

Commissioner Hawkins offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Bush, and unanimously carried to add Crystal Lake as a senate priority to secure the funding for the engineering and design the remainder of the Crystal Lake Project through

previous appropriations.

Chairman Pettis called a recess from 10:10 a.m. – 10:16 a.m.

6.2 Concerns Regarding Increase in Property Taxes – Andrew Darling, a Citizen spoke under the non-agenda audience section.

6.3 United Way 23 and We Workforce Campaign Presentation – Karen Landry, Director of Development said that they hope the board and the county employees can participate. They are a group of over 55 agencies working in surrounding counties. The agency supports grants and finding grants that will benefit the community and they also use some of the contributions that come in to fund grants that go out to organizations that are working in the community. They provide training for non-profit organizations, support volunteer coordination, and for marketing and advertising. They invest in research in Asset Limited Income Constrained and Employ. The volunteer income tax assistance site is a place where low or moderate-income individuals can get their taxes filed for free. The ag center has been identified as a location for the free tax preparation location. This service will be available on various days throughout the tax season. They also provide a used sports swat meet in the county, which will be held in the spring. Reading Pals is another program that they support. United Way was able to turn every dollar that was invested into \$4.00 of impact.

Employees have an opportunity to elect donations to be applied to community impact funds that are used for grant purposes only so an organization can apply. They can make the selection for a specific organization. An organization that is a 501 (c) (3) that is not listed can be selected as a donation site.

Approval is requested for a workforce campaign with the county employees for donations to be processed through payroll.

Commissioner Hawkins told the chairman that he would urge him to speak with the clerk because that is who will be tasked with the work.

Clerk Bell said that she would appreciate it being addressed during open enrollment if that is the board's pleasure and not in the middle of the year.

This item will be discussed at a workshop after it is researched.

6.4 Request for Approval for Usage of Ag Center for United Way's Volunteer Income Tax Preparation Program and Waiver of Fees – Karen Landry, United Way Director of Development requested the ag center rental fee be waived for them to use it for an income tax preparation site. The space that has been shown to them is in the auditorium and there is at least one Saturday every month that it would be available.

Commissioner Hawkins asked if the west wing would be more sufficient with it being a smaller space and easier to access.

Commissioner Corbin agreed with using a smaller space at the ag center but this

option would need to be confirmed with the staff there. This item will be discussed with Mark Mauldin and revisited at the January workshop.

6.5 Catastrophic Inmate Medical Insurance Renewal – Jane Dellwo, Administrative Secretary presented the above renewal before the board, which includes an increase of \$3,500.00.

Commissioner Hawkins offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Corbin, and unanimously carried to approve the renewal with Hunt Insurance Group as presented above.

6.6 OST Printed Guide RFP Award – Heather Lopez, TDC Director requested approval to award Rolling Publishing which was the highest-ranking quote.

Commissioner Hawkins offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Corbin, and unanimously carried to award the services listed above to Rolling Publishing.

6.7 Public Relations Services RFP Rebid – Heather Lopez, TDC Director told the board that an informal bid process was done for this service for which they did not receive the minimum number of bids. The request before the board is to rebid with a new deadline of December 4.

Commissioner Griffin offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Corbin to approve issuing a bid for the above-referenced service.

Commissioner Hawkins expressed concern about it being a busy time for a proposal asking if the beginning of the year would be better due to staff being minimal as businesses during the holiday season.

Heather Lopez said the services are currently paused and the current firm is still hosting the press room for them, however, they are not pitching or doing any campaigns. The only issue waiting to issue the bid is that January and February are the time that they push due to spring and summer vacations normally being scheduled 3 – 4 months ahead. If this bid is not successful, this time they will hold off until after the holidays.

The motion carried unanimously.

6.8 Greenhead, Orange Hill, and Five Points Fire Department Discussion – Justin Leach, Fire Coordinator told the board the above-referenced fire departments would like to become a county fire department. The concerns they had have been resolved after meeting with the county attorney.

Commissioner Hawkins asked about the 501 (c) (3).

County Attorney Fuqua said that he has not seen any documentation of a 501 (c) (3). To his knowledge, they are a non-profit corporation. They will keep their non-profit corporations going for fundraisers, which would be outside of the purview of

the county. The money budgeted will be maintained by the county and they will report under the county.

Justin Leach said they would do everything that the Washington County Fire Department does.

Commissioner Hawkins said he received a call from one of the members of the Orange Hill Fire Department who was pleased about the possibility of combining. They wanted to give the sense of fire departments working together and this would be a huge step in that order. If that is the route they would like to take, he supports it.

Commissioner Corbin asked how it would change the dynamics of the departments.

Justin Leach said that it will help with ISO Ratings. For any structure fire within a certain district, there must be at least four certified people on the scene. They can come from anywhere in the county if it is in the same department. The departments would keep their existing chiefs except Greenhead, who decided to go back to being a fireman. Greenhead voted for Regina to step up as the chief, which would be put in place once the county has accepted the change being presented. The change in departments would mean more of a combined effort.

Commissioner Hawkins offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Corbin to accept the Greenhead, Orange Hill, and Five Points Fire Departments under the Washington County's purview of Washington County Fire.

Justin Leach said the departments would like the request to be effective today.

Troy Cunningham addressed the board. According to the ISO class that was given by Kyle Miles if the departments come together as one the chiefs are no longer individual. There is one chief over the departments. According to the ISO rating, if the departments are combined there must be four from the first run truck out of that district to a structure fire; not two. Combining the fire departments will not help the community. This is not to say that it is a bad idea, but further research needs to be done to make sure that more problems are not caused for citizens by raising their ISO rates by doing this. Outside of a five-mile driving radius, the ISO rating increases from a fire department. What is the 2/5/10/15-year plan?

Commissioner Hawkins said if two firefighters report to the fire in a truck and another one pulls up behind them in a truck, that does not equal four. They must be in the same physical truck.

Troy Cunningham said to get the optimal ISO rating there must be four. Every community has a rating from 1 – 10, with 10 being the worst. There are many rated at 9 because they do not have the coverage area or the manpower.

As a fire chief, he has yet to hear a 2/5/10-year plan of what the county's direction is on this. He has not been contacted about what their thoughts were.

Commissioner Hawkins addressed Chairman Pettis referencing the point of order. The discussion now is Greenhead, Orange Hill, and Five Points and now it has moved on to a 5-year plan.

Troy Cunningham said the 5-year plan is these are going county, and the county is trying to move toward paid. This is the first step, second step, or third step to it. This is the plan that he is trying to figure out. Has anybody seen one? How does this affect the citizens? Are paid firefighters being put in the stations to increase the response times? How many of the departments will shut down as Bay County did? Has anyone investigated what Bay County did? Has anybody investigated what happened to Bay County 20 years ago when they started this? They lost departments, which means the citizens suffer. Different avenues need to be looked at before a decision is made on this. A well-informed decision needs to be made.

Commissioner Corbin asked why departments would be lost.

Troy Cunningham said a statement was made to him a few minutes ago stating that this individual would like to see fewer departments but better funded. To be better funded it would be great if the ISO rating could be kept while having fewer departments. They will have to be paid. How will they be paid? Will taxes be raised? What is being done to help the citizens? This is not seen to help the citizens. Five Points has two stations. One will likely be shut down.

Commissioner Hawkins asked if the second Five Points Fire Department is being used.

Justin Leach said they use it to store trucks. They ran out of Clayton Road. They do not need to be there. The whole point is to be able to house their truck out of the weather.

Commissioner Hawkins said for clarification, the one that is at the old fire station is on a piece of property that reverts to the property owner once the building has been torn down. That building is in bad repair. It is a pole barn that they have added on to for years. The station on Clayton Road is a better updated station.

Commissioner Pettis said that is his understanding.

Troy Cunningham said the west side of the county is not being looked at regarding fire services. Caryville does not have a fire service. He went before the board in Caryville because citizens asked him about it. They need a fire service. There is more concern about Corridor 79, which is the only thing that he has ever heard of is where they want everything and where everybody is moving to. That is false. This is supposed to happen. Other areas in the county are seeing an influx of people moving in. It is not in one area as Sunny Hills is, but it is affecting other areas of the community. Everything needs to be looked at; not just one corridor.

Commissioner Pettis asked how a town that has multiple stations, with three firefighters works with the four-man requirement.

Troy Cunningham said that the minimum requirement in Bay County was to have four guys on a truck to respond from there. This used to be the requirement in Panama City, which is where he previously worked. That kept their ISO ratings up, which was one of the lowest in northwest central Florida.

Commissioner Pettis said if there is a department that has an engineer and two firefighters on one truck the ISO exists, but it is not optimal. Nothing is saying you cannot do that. There just would not be an optimal rating.

Troy Cunningham said that is correct. They are going to refer to the run reports for the number of people that were on a truck.

Commissioner Corbin said that it was his understanding from speaking with Miles that if each department had their chief, they were individual. Each department would have a separate ISO rating.

Troy Cunningham said if they go under the same blanket there can only be one chief.

Benita Crittendon said a while back that combining all the fire departments under the county was mentioned and then putting before a referendum an MSTU Tax (county-wide tax) that would support the departments. This is a small thing set in motion that has a bid agenda on the back side. This is not to make a judgement call but what this is leading to can be seen. The concern is the current financial status of the county without knowing what is coming regarding FEMA reimbursements. If things do not happen quickly the board will be faced with whether taxes will be increased for Washington County citizens to make up for the negligence of the previous administration. There is an issue if this is the preemptive move to a county-wide fire department to follow up with an MSTU being levied on the citizens considering the current situation.

As a reminder, this is not the Tray Hawkins show anymore. David Pettis is chairman and Commissioner Hawkins continues to act as chairman.

Al Gothard said that he did not understand the ISO training to give the information that four people had to be on one truck. There are four certified firefighters on any structure fire. Bay County runs two people on a truck, but they still meet their ISO because another truck comes with them to make up four people.

The request before the board will cause them to be under the same fire department so four people from that department will show up. There will be separate chiefs. The 5/10-year plan has been worked on and part of it is occurring right now.

Commissioner Griffin said there is a lot of uncertainty and maybe Miles should come before the board at a workshop. This is not to say he is against it.

Commissioner Corbin said that he spoke to him and was told that each department has their chief and own individual ISO rating.

Justin Leach asked what the harm was in them being under the county. How will it affect the county negatively? It will not. It will make the county better. Greenhead started this in 2019/2020. Half the information has been moved around and taken to the news and he is tired of it.

Commissioner Pettis asked Justin if he provided a 5-year plan during budget time this year.

Justin Leach said that he presented it to the board.

Mr. Smith, Wausau Fire Department addressed the board. As Wausau, they are not connected but they are. They have a Chief's Association for a reason. For Troy Cunningham to go to Caryville and act outside the Chief's Association is disingenuous. The only way to be a team is to attend these meetings and bring the concerns and then to the liaison who will bring the concerns before the commissioners. This is getting out of control for no reason. It should not be happening here.

Melissa Collins, Orange Hill Fire Department said she would like to piggyback off what Mr. Smith said. Not only is it becoming a problem with this, but it is also becoming a problem with the fire scene. Actions and attitudes are being carried to the fire scene making some firefighters uncomfortable.

The truck purchase took place before Hurricane Michael. All leadership and everyone involved in it agreed. At that time Country Oaks took physical possession of the truck to their station. They ran calls out of it and had it lettered. If the fire departments want a pump test done, they call and have a pump test and the same thing with a second opinion. They have put their all into this and are working diligently to make a better fire department for the community. It is not clear what the motive is to sidetrack that. The volunteers are getting aggravated with it. Somebody must decide and move forward. It is tiresome to be wondering who she is being videotaped by and if she can trust who she is on the fire scene with. It is risking lives. It is personal. They do not do this for money and do not do it to be bashed. They need to work together, or the citizens will suffer, and the fire departments will close.

Veronica Jones, a citizen of Vernon addressed the board. Troy Cunningham is her son and Mary Ann Pellitier is her friend and lives on their property. She and her husband started the fire department 30 years ago. She contacted Troy and his wife to help her keep the station going. He is trying his hardest to get equipment for people. Nobody here has tried to talk to Caryville. If the bashing continues of this young man with the fire people who do not know. Mr. Miles should come before the board. It is not the county. What does the county gain? What does the county lose? It is what the citizens lose. Everybody needs to be heard.

Larry Zezula told the board combining the fire departments makes sense because it means more federal grants to be able to get more equipment.

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Troy Cunningham told the board the citizens of Caryville contacted him and asked him to come before their board to try to direct them in a new direction. He was acquiring information and not telling them anything. This may stop right here tomorrow after he finds out additional information. There is no reason for him to waste Mr. Leaches' time in bringing it in or waiting until the next chief's meeting. If he can gather the information and save him legwork, wouldn't that be smart to bring all the information to the meeting at one time?

The truck mentioned that is housed in Orange Hill's back barn is classified as E70 which is the truck that he has been waiting for paperwork/transfer of ownership documentation for 6 – months and has yet to receive. It is correct that he can ask for a pump test, but he would like the pump test that was done to deem the truck not able to be used in service. Once the truck was removed from their station, they were given another piece of apparatus. It also was not pump-tested or DOT-ready to be used. Why did the county send them a piece of apparatus, asking them to put it in service for an emergency and it is not ready to be put on the road? The lights were not working on it. It cannot be used. Documentation has been requested and has not been received. The truck was removed from service after he continually asked to have a pump test done which it failed. Another truck was brought in that had not been pump tested. They had to take it again to go and have a pump test. How many times does he have to ask for a pump test before the department receives a piece of apparatus that is ready to be put into service? Isn't the fire service for protection?

He has been asking for a meeting with Mr. Massey to clarify all of this. This would not be happening. He has asked for Mr. Hawkins to put him on the agenda. It is not understood why he cannot get his questions answered. He does not like coming before the board with all bad news.

Regarding problems on the fire scene, he is not aware of any.

Commissioner Hawkins requested a copy of the email where he refused to put Troy Cunningham on the agenda. If it was done it was an oversight on his part and he offered an apology.

Commissioner Hawkins repeated the motion on the table to add Greenhead, Orange Hill, and Five Points Fire Departments to the county fire department effective immediately. Commissioner Corbin seconded the motion, which carried 4 to 1 with Commissioner Griffin being opposed due to wanting further information.

6.8 B. Burn Ban – Justin Leach, Fire Coordinator told the board that Donnie Sellers, Forestry Department recommended the burn ban be lifted. Things could change in the next couple of weeks causing another burn ban request to be before the board.

Commissioner Hawkins offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Griffin, and unanimously carried to lift the burn ban.

6.9 Firefighter Assistance Grant Update Ebro Fire Department and

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Acceptance \$45,197.10 for Orange Hill Fire Department – Justin Leach, Fire Coordinator addressed the board. Earlier this year Ebro Fire Department met state compliance, which is a huge improvement for Ebro Fire. The department has a lot of equipment, such as air bottles that are upon expiration. The grant allowed them to get some top-of-the-line equipment. The volunteers work hard and do what they can to protect Washington County citizens.

Chairman Pettis confirmed that this item is for informational purposes only.

Justin Leach requested permission to write and accept the grant for Orange Hill Fire Department, which will be used for air packs. The grant is 100% reimbursable.

Commissioner Corbin offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Hawkins, and unanimously carried to approve and accept the grant as presented above.

6.10 – This item was removed.

6.11 - FY 2023-2024 Small Quantity Generator Agreement for Professional Services between Emerald Coast Regional Council and Washington County – Candace Thames, Grants/Procurement Specialist requested approval of the above-referenced agreement for services, which will supply audit services for hazardous disposal waste regarding disposal of hazardous waste for small businesses within the county, which may include nail salons, small engine repair shops, pharmacies and medical facilities.

Commissioner Hawkins offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Bush, and unanimously carried to approve the agreement listed under 6.11.

6.12 - 2023 – 2024 WCPL Annual Plan of Service – Renae Rountree, Library Director addressed the board. The library must have an annual plan of service for state aid December 1 grant requirements. A three-year strategic plan is created based on patrons' use of library services.

Commissioner Griffin offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Corbin, and unanimously carried to approve the annual plan listed under 6.12.

6.14 - Liaison Appointments – Chairman Pettis asked if the commissioners had any changes to the current appointments. The CRA is vacant, and they have asked him to be the liaison which he is not opposed to unless someone else would like to accept it. Commissioner Griffin accepted the canvassing board appointment.

Deidra Pettis told the board the canvassing board training needs to be completed and once it has been she will need the certificate before the first meeting in January.

Commissioner Griffin offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Corbin, and unanimously carried to update the canvassing board liaison appointees for CRA, Chairman Pettis, and the Canvassing Board, Commissioner Griffin.

6.14 - Line of Credit Discussion – Attorney Fuqua addressed the board regarding

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the board's recent approval to extend the existing \$6,000,000.00 line of credit to \$12,000,000.00 for which a commitment letter from First Federal is before the board today. The terms are the same except the interest rate is 6.25 for tax exempt. The action today would be to approve the commitment letter and if that is approved the resolution and closing will be at the November 21 meeting.

Commissioner Griffin confirmed with Clerk Bell that the original line of credit had been used.

Clerk Bell confirmed that was correct. There was a draw in September and one in October. The vouchers for August and September were over \$8 million, and October was \$7 million. Anyone who follows that should know there was no other choice other than to draw from it.

Commissioner Griffin asked if there were any updates on extensions at the meeting Thursday.

Commissioner Hawkins said that it is in FEMA's. The next step will likely be to the Director Angela Gillman. They understood the expectations of the county and were receptive. This response is about the halt being released on the funds.

Commissioner Hawkins asked Commissioner Griffin if he was referring to everything being figured out on the asphalt versus going with the standard scope of work versus the engineered drawings.

It is his understanding that it is being expedited to the director and as soon as Wheeler Emergency Management sent the information for the RFI.

County Administrator Massey said the comment about expediting was for the extension. On the call, a gentleman said any information that he did have he would get on quickly and connect things. The exact information is not specific.

Commissioner Griffin commented that he knows they as a county have worked hard to get out of debt, however, it is understood that Clerk Bell had to do what was necessary. When will the county be reimbursed and get them back?

Clerk Bell said as of yesterday the system showed pending reimbursements uploaded awaiting the process of over \$6,000,000.00 that Wheeler Emergency Management has submitted.

Kevan Parker said on their side there is about \$7,000,000.00 and \$1,000,000.00 waiting on canceled checks. There is another \$2,000,000.00 they are working through.

FEMA had an engineer assigned to them who helped cost the mitigation. His spreadsheets/how he came up with it through line items is not in FEMA's or the state's system. They are trying to locate the original spreadsheet. Nobody has it. He ended up getting to a square yard rate as an average and they used that square rate across all the projects. That is all the mitigation. Wheeler Emergency

Management is working on a rough draft of the minutes from the meeting.

County Administrator Massey said that he asked that the information be noted so they would have an accurate view of the conversation.

Commissioner Griffin said the next time there is a meeting like this, the board should have someone taking minutes instead of a contractor.

County Administrator Massey said that can be done if the board would like.

Kevan Parker said they have them about every day.

Commissioner Griffin said that he would like it to be done moving forward.

County Administrator Massey said the calls are daily. If it needs to be done, arrangements will be made to get it done.

Commissioner Griffin said this meeting was scheduled. He wants funds to be expedited so they can stop using the line of credit and get the money back on track. He does not want to create more debt for the county.

Chairman Pettis asked if the current credit line has only been used for FEMA payments.

Clerk Bell said yes. That is a regulation.

Chairman Pettis asked if the construction monitoring by a third party under the covenants is what Wheeler provides. After that, it says all FEMA payments/reimbursements. The extension of credit will be specifically for FEMA operations.

Clerk Bell responded that was correct.

Commissioner Griffin asked if the loan would allow the contractors to begin working again or catch up on the outstanding FEMA vouchers. No additional debt is being created.

Chairman Pettis said it would be just what is owed.

Clerk Bell said the office has a figure for what the final amount would be. \$12 would cover what has been used in addition to any outstanding.

Chairman Pettis asked if the added \$6 million would cover what it currently owed.

Clerk Bell responded where we are today.

Commissioner Griffin questioned if reimbursements are pending the investigation through the state.

Clerk Bell said with the extension and the discussion with the reimbursements.

Commissioner Griffin asked if the county does not receive reimbursement based on the findings from the investigation, the county is responsible for the line of credit.

Clerk Bell said there are no guarantees, but it sounds promising after speaking with the state regularly trying to help things get moving again.

Commissioner Corbin said they are responsible either way. They owe it to the contractor or the bank.

Commissioner Griffin said they need to have something in place in the future where this does not happen. Hurricane Michael was 5 years ago. There have been 78 miles of road paved. At some point, they must get back to county business. Folks in the county, the employees, and the morale; get back to making the county grow financially so they are not taxing everybody in the county to the extreme. At some point, they need to get away from FEMA and government and federal money and get back to making money for the county and concentrate on the county's main goals/5-year/10-year plan for making this county grow. They have gotten headstrong on FEMA/government money. At some point, the board may need to decide enough is enough. What has been paved is a huge accomplishment.

Commissioner Hawkins said that he does not think the chamber, executive director team, or staff has stopped looking for ways to grow and build the county, whether it is through implementing utility pass ways, broadband, or the 77/79 Corridor. Ms. Birge and her team and Ms. Andrews and her team should not feel any way.

Commissioner Griffin said that he is not reflecting anybody who is trying to make the county grow. They would not be in this position right now if they had not been focusing on FEMA and government money.

Commissioner Hawkins said that he wanted them to know of the appreciation they have for them.

Chairman Pettis asked Clerk Bell if she felt the added \$6,000,000.00 would be efficient in not having to request any more funds since the work have stopped.

Clerk Bell said once things begin again everything should be fine. The process was smooth for years. It was something that they ran into with this. It is a huge project and a blessing to the citizens of the county.

Commissioner Hawkins offered a motion to approve the line of credit. Commissioner Bush seconded the motion for discussion.

Commissioner Bush said they are in the position now, not unlike they were last year. Last year was the same situation as far as the time extension. It continues to be said that FEMA is holding things up due to an investigation. He commented in the last meeting that he did not think that was the case, because they would not

be holding Calhoun, Bay, and other counties, however, he would like to know if that is the case. Who would provide that information?

County Administrator Massey said that he thinks the obvious thing is the investigation versus the request for additional information. It is common that they receive RFI's from the state requesting further information to clarify things before they approve it, and it is done. He has not looked at receiving RFI's as an investigation.

Chairman Pettis said that he spoke to Kevan Adkison who said if FEMA releases money the Florida DEM may not release the money until they are satisfied with the RFI and investigation inquiry.

Commissioner Bush asked what are the RFI's. He is aware that they do have RFI's regularly, which is a point of clarification on the way contracting is being done, the way you constructed it, etc.

County Administrator Massey clarified that what he said was about that situation specifically. If there is something else going on, that is not what he was referring to. He was referring to the information that was requested referring to the asphalt.

Chairman Pettis said in the conversation with Mr. Adkison mentioned the placement of 1.5 inches of asphalt as opposed to 2 inches and there was a question about some ditches being created in a few places that should not have.

Commissioner Bush clarified it would be a design issue and the other is excavating ditches that may have not potentially been there. That was the ditch contract excavation contract; there were two of them.

Chairman Pettis said as he understands it, it was during the paving operations, however, he can seek clarification on this part.

Larry Zezula suggested that seeking additional loan funds is a gamble. It is good that the contractors have insurance because gross negligence and misleading the county by an inch and a half to two inches is a cheap take.

Benita Crittendon told the board that she spoke to Kevin Adkison and asked him if there is anything currently going on with the county that is causing a hold-up for approving the extensions. The response was that there is a legitimate FEMA backlog and there is not anything right now holding up those applications for extension but there are a few things that may. The request for information that they are requesting is regarding the inch-and-a-half ordeal. Wheeler Emergency Management and the engineers have been before this board and the earlier one to ask for variances to decrease the asphalt from two inches to an inch and a half, which the board consistently approved. There were 19 variances requested and three of them were approved.

There is an issue regarding Jerusalem Road. It has been said that a citizen paid for his asphalt. The issue is the original application was for 1.9 miles which

included that before it was handed over to the private landowner. Now it is 1.4 miles to the gate. Did the county receive and keep reimbursement for .5 miles that were later given to a landowner?

Territory Road, which is owned by a private landowner, is a new issue. The county owns a couple of hundred feet on it.

There are dirt roads, with Carter Circle being one where contractors dug ditches. The FEMA scope of work describes whether it is to create a new ditch, which is very rarely approved unless it is specifically asked for and most of the time it is to mitigate what is existing. Carter Circle is barely wide enough for two cars to pass. There has never been a ditch there or on some of the other roads down there. The ditch is not very wide. The contractor that dug; it was one mini excavator scoop of dirt. The specs are something like 4 feet wide and 5 feet wide or in reverse. The contractor dug ditches that never existed and collected over \$1,000,000.00 doing that, which is FEMA fraud. Everyone here probably knows who the contractor is. The ditch that was dug on Carter Circle was washed in within 3-months because it could not handle the flow. The road is a ditch, just like Greenhead Road. There is a lot of controversy surrounding the entire thing.

When a commissioner asked what happened in the meeting last Thursday, the two people that were present looks were just exchanged. Nobody from the back said anything. There is a lack of transparency.

Commissioner Pettis, Corbin, and Griffin took the initiative to call DEM after she contacted them. Contact was not made with Commissioner Bush since she is unsure what to think about him or where he stands on things. It is known where the other one is at; therefore, time is not wasted there.

There are specific members of the board that have caused a camouflage of issues. A meeting has not been called to lay these items out as they should have been to other board members, which is intentional. Three commissioners are not being provided with information to make educated decisions. It is unknown who called the meeting that the earlier chairman, county administrator, Wheeler Emergency Management (that is under federal investigation), HMB Professional Engineers (owned by the same person that owns Wheeler Emergency Management), DEM, and FEMA were involved in, and the county was not able to record their minutes to the meeting. The county is dependent on the private entity that is under federal investigation to keep an honest record of minutes for the meeting, which is pitiful. Today has shown an exposure of the lack of information that has been intentionally done to other commissioners and the citizens. The county attorney has not only compromised but enabled it. The county attorney teaches ethics classes and then teaches people how to get by through those ethics' classes. There needs to be an immediate cleaning out in Washington County.

Commissioner Bush asked Chairman Pettis to find out if they were being held up because of that. It is understood that one is a design issue and that they decreased asphalt and increased the base, which was a cost-saving measure. Is there an investigation? How is it progressing? Who is doing it? It does not give the greatest

appearance to an agency to have multiple commissioners calling the same person. It may need to be done.

Chairman Pettis agreed to follow up.

The motion on the floor to approve the line of credit was carried unanimously.

6.15 - Employee Stipend – \$300.00 net.

Commissioner Hawkins said at some point a budget amendment will be needed for the sheriff. He returned around \$5,500.00 from the last fiscal year. Deidra Pettis, Washington County Supervisor of Elections returned \$82,000.00 which is something to be said after having to give to budget amendments in the middle of last year to get through the fiscal year.

Commissioner Hawkins offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Griffin, and unanimously carried to use the end-of-the-year funds returned from the SOE as cash carried forward to cover the stipends for the employees throughout Washington County totaling \$324.85 per person.

6.16 - Governor Ron DeSantis Holiday Closure Discussion – Chairman Pettis said the governor sent out a memo that included the additional holiday closures of November 22, December 26, 29, and January 2 for state employees. The board has typically followed those closures.

Commissioner Hawkins offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Griffin, and unanimously carried to add the holidays for county employees as listed above.

Commissioner Bush asked if anybody had contacted any of the other elected constitutionals.

Deidra Pettis said that she reached out to Gil Carter, Property Appraiser who said that he would not be closing.

Commissioner Hawkins said that it is their choice. The board provides them with the information for this and the stipends. The board does not mandate it.

Commissioner Bush said that if it is declared a holiday, it affects what they must pay for an employee to work. It would cause the sheriff's office a greater complication than it would them.

Commissioner Hawkins amended his motion to adhere to the Christmas holidays provided to the state employees by the governor and for the constitutional officers that have employees mandated to work to offer them an equal number of floating holidays throughout the year if they would like to take part. Commissioner Griffin seconded the amended motion, which was carried unanimously.

6.17 - 2022 - 2023 EMS Budget Amendment – Chairman Pettis said the amendment is an accounting/bookkeeping procedure to complete their budget. The money has already been used.

Commissioner Hawkins offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Griffin, and unanimously carried to approve the budget amendment for EMS for 2022 – 2023.

6.18 – 2022 – 2023 Sheriff Budget Amendment – Chairman said this is the same situation as above.

Deputy Clerk Brantley said the budget amendment is related to grants received throughout the year.

Commissioner Corbin offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Griffin, and unanimously carried to approve the budget amendment for the sheriff for 2022 – 2023.

A recess was called from 12:13 – 12:21.

Commissioner Hawkins was not present at this point.

7. MSBU ADVISORY COMMITTEE UPDATE - Gary Hartman told the board the MSBU mowing contract expires on April 30, 2024, and the committee would like to rebid the services. The coordinator will be prepared to work with the county to relay the details. The current contract was 3 – years and has been extended twice. All the extensions have been used. The trash removal will be removed because Deltona is currently doing that. As part of the mowing contract, they need to pick up stuff on the road and not run over it with their mower. It may save \$50,000.00.

Commissioner Griffin confirmed that Fresh Cut is the current contractor.

County Attorney Fuqua said no state law requirement says the contract cannot be extended.

Steve Healis said the committee has discussed changing the scope of what is being mowed. They would like to save money to do other things in Sunny Hills. There has not been an increase in the price of the current contract in three years.

County Administrator Massey said the MSBU Board is an advisory board to the county. It is recommended that the board allow him to research this because some things need to be looked at before removing the current contractor. Short of cutting what is being mowed, there will not be any money saved to do anything else. There are a lot of considerations due to the activity in Sunny Hills. The changes are bringing a different dynamic to the community. Deltona has agreed to take the fountain back over and may take up some additional responsibilities.

Commissioner Griffin agreed and said to sit down with the current contractor.

Steve Healis said the current contractor does a fantastic job.

Gary Hartman said that people are more concerned with road paving than mowing.

Commissioner Corbin asked if the current contract could be extended and changed.

County Attorney Fuqua said yes.

Gary Harman said they are pleased with the current contract, but it has been a long time, and it should be looked at.

Steve Healis said after COVID the contract was amended to add the park and the community center. The committee would like that expense to be back under the county. The money that is saved could be used toward roads.

County Administrator Massey said MSBU is the county, and the county is MSBU.

Gary Hartman said there is no misunderstanding about them being an advisory committee.

Steve Healis said the next MSBU meeting is February 7, which is when the decision needs to be final about how they will continue.

Commissioner Corbin requested County Administrator Massey update the board. The current contractor knows the area best, and their opinion would be welcomed.

Gary Hartman said the contract is \$150,000.00 for their \$500,000.00 budget, therefore they must get the best deal.

Mitchell Finch, Fresh Cut said that he has been more than fair working with MSBU over the past five years. During the period of the contract, he has reduced his annual salary by \$20,000.00 +/- and has not increased during this time. He does feel that he has been a punching bag for the budget for the roads. He is willing to meet with them. Trash is often thrown out in the area with some areas being worse than others. Country Club, Elkcam, and Deltona get fairly bad. They do not intentionally run over trash. If that were the case the contract would not have been active for five years.

Gary Hartman said that they are pleased with the work that is being done and they did not mean to offend anybody. They currently have a separate contract for trash, and they may not need that because they are picking up trash as they mow; they always have. The extra contract may not be needed since Deltona is picking up some of the trash. It is Sunny Hills assessments funds that are being spent and they handle bringing the option before the board for expenditure of the funds.

Steve Healis agreed with Gary Hartman and said he has a great working relationship with Mitchell Finch. The contract is coming to an end, and it is being brought before the board to follow the procurement policy.

8. FEMA COORDINATOR – Kevan Parker addressed the board.

- Request for Information – These have been coming in weekly and have been

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asked several hundred questions and they are down to responding to the final two questions. One is the number of ditches there were before 11/18/2018 and the number of ditches after 10/11/2018. It is the same thing for the number of culverts, and it is not clear if it is Hurricane Michael related or any.

- FEMA Meeting – The meeting was set up by DEM and there is a rough draft of the meeting. FEMA would like to know what the county’s position is on this. There were two road zones that they asked for a scope of work change or approval. It is not to get rid of the asphalt thickness or anything else or the line item. The scope of work had two inches of asphalt, a filter fabric at the sub-base, base rock on top of that, and sod. The only thing that was mentioned was asphalt. They could put down filter fabric, two inches of rock, which gives enough coverage over the filter fabric to pave it. They could pave it with two inches and put out sod. They have asked and they approved the first two to let the design engineer have that in the scope of work. Those four items in addition to it must be designed by a Florida-registered P.E. The issue that came up on the design side was it could work but the paving design would have to be paved to put two inches. If the paving design was done the typical way the base would be thicker with an inch and a half of asphalt.

It was explained to FEMA that the quantity and the other items were placeholders. Once the determination was made by the P.E., that is what they would go with. On the FEMA side, this was the biggest thing that came from the meeting.

8.1 RFP 2023 – 01 Rebid 2: EOC Food and Catering Services During Emergencies – The results from the first bid resulted in prices being \$50,000.00 a week more than the current contract. The second and third bids resulted in no bids. The county staff has contacted local restaurants each time. An emergency contract is a choice, but it would be more expensive and there is still the liability there that it was not procured. What is the board’s direction?

Commissioner Griffin offered a motion to not rebid and use an emergency contractor if needed. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Corbin and carried 3 to 1 with Commissioner Bush being opposed.

8.2 ITB 2023 – 18 Deployable Flood Panel Barrier System – This project is related to Hurricane Sally, which caused 28 – 32 inches of water inside the building. All the damage was covered by insurance. FEMA will allow a mitigation project based on that number. They have allowed around \$800,000.00 for mitigation on the building. FEMA approved a flood wall barrier that was put up around the building, drainage, where some of the roof and guttering was picked up out to the pitches, and a 6-inch portable pump. Eight bids were received with the recommendation being Portadam’s bid of \$263,788.00, which is the lowest bidder for the flood panel wall. The wall system does not require any kind of outside materials like water or dirt like the tiger dam systems. The project is reimbursable.

County Administrator Massey asked if this is the same thing as a tiger dam.

Kevan Parker responded that a tiger dam is one where water or dirt is put in to fill it.

County Administrator Massey suggested not to continue until the other issues are solved.

Commissioner Griffin agreed.

Kevan Parker said they would go ahead and send the price to FEMA.

Commissioner Corbin offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Bush, to accept the bid contingent upon the other issues being resolved. The motion was carried 3 to 1 with Commissioner Griffin being opposed.

Commissioner Griffin said that he would like to stop everything.

8.3 2023 – 15 Rebid for Hardening of EMS Building – Three bids were received and have not been reviewed for compliance. The request before the board is approval for the low bid contingent upon a review of the package. The bidders are Hall Construction, \$65,845.00, Holley, \$90,747.00, and B & G, \$122,692.00.

Commissioner Bush offered a motion to approve the low bidder contingent upon the contractor meeting the specs, having all the documentation in his packet, and until the finances are where they should be.

County Administrator Massey said this is the same situation as the last one.

Commissioner Griffin said that it is contingent upon the county's reimbursements and getting the funds back where they need to be. He will not move forward without physical documentation.

Kevan Parker told the board the numbers are contingent upon DEO's approval as well.

County Administrator Massey asked how long the bid numbers are good.

Kevan Parker said he cannot say for certain.

Commissioner Corbin seconded the motion which failed 2 to 2.

8.4 FEMA Update – Kevan Parker updated the board. \$7,000,000.00 has been sent for reimbursement, \$1,000,000.00 +/- awaiting cleared checks to be able to send for reimbursement, and \$1,300,000.00 in Anderson's contracts.

- Worley Road – The contractors would not honor their prices. The second-place group agreed to most prices except the guardrail for \$16,000.00/\$17,000.00. Bids will have to be issued again.

Discussion was held with FEMA on Tuesday for which Commissioner Corbin sat in on. They agreed on the quantities they wanted for each of the lines. The state does not lump sum bids. The bids are line items and not a lump sum. The State of Florida's standard index is what they are using, which specifies the pipe size, excavation needed, fill, compaction, etc. DEM would like that broken out, which is something that Melvin Engineering can be tasked with. The issue is the contractor's system bids that spec number, which would cause them to recreate their system to provide that kind of detail. Rebidding in that would not likely attract bidders. That was explained to FEMA, and they agreed to send them the standard spec, which was sent to them yesterday. They sent them the new specs to revise the numbers to match what FEMA approved. Proof had to be sent that Washington County had adopted the Greenbook to use as their code and standard for new construction. Permission is requested from the board to rebid contingent upon FEMA's approval.

County Administrator Massey said at some point a decision is going to have to be made to get the residents a way to travel.

Kevan Parker said the next step to FEMA is to say that mitigation cannot be done that the H & H Study needs, and they would like to put it back to pre-disaster, which gives a potential event of 10 years.

Commissioner Griffin questioned why that had not been done.

Kevan Parker said it can be done but you cannot fix it.

Commissioner Griffin said they are in a tough position. All the leg work can be done but if the money is not there to fund it, that is not doing anything.

Commissioner Corbin said that his take on the call was positive.

Commissioner Corbin offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Bush, and carried 3 to 1, to bid the project after it had been approved by FEMA and contingent upon the funding moving again. Commissioner Griffin opposed the motion.

Commissioner Griffin said if they do not get anything after this, he recommends they fix the road at the county's cost. It is an inconvenience to the residents.

9. PUBLIC WORKS SUPERVISOR - Johnny Evans addressed the board.

9.1 Purchase of Equipment – The lease on the Caterpillar excavator has ended and they would like approval to purchase it for \$94,000.00 from cash carried forward.

Commissioner Griffin offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Bush, and unanimously carried to go ahead with the purchase of the Caterpillar excavator as requested above.

Johnny Evans requested approval to buy two Kenworth Dump trucks for \$493,900.00 which can be covered from the funds received from the sale of a mixer and dump truck sold in September. The trucks will be ready in June or July.

Commissioner Griffin questioned patching equipment.

Johnny Evans said that Byron Western has been researching this. They have been looking for something that would grind up milled asphalt chunks.

Commissioner Bush offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Corbin, and unanimously carried to buy two Kenworths for \$493,900.00 and surplus two trucks.

The price for two 15-foot Schulte Bush Hogs (Bush Hog is not the actual name per J. Evans) is \$36,934.00 each, which is in the equipment budget. The decks, gearboxes, and rear carriage are heavier duty. The brand they currently have is around \$22,000.00 each. There have been issues with the rear carriage, deck problems, and bush hogs.

Commissioner Corbin offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Bush asking if the price was on a state contract or sheriff's bid.

Johnny Evans said they are from Sourceweb, which they are members of, and meet the procurement policy. It is Sun South in Dothan.

Commissioner Corbin amended his motion for approval to surplus two bush hogs and purchase two. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bush and carried unanimously 4 – 0.

Johnny Evans said they have been looking for something smaller than the mower maxes to go down the paved roads. There is an attachment for the bucket of the tractor that will flex out as the mower max does and cut the grass and the bushes back at the same time. The cost is \$9,850.00. The mower maxes are wide and work well on dirt roads. For the paved roads, they would like to use something that would stay in the lane. The base is wide, and they are not able to draw the arm in well to cut due to the way it reaches out. They are using other equipment to cut the paved roads back.

Commissioner Griffin commented that if the paved roads were not so narrow, they may use what they have.

Commissioner Bush offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Corbin, and carried 3 to 1 to purchase the equipment as requested above for \$9,850.00. Commissioner Griffin voted in opposition.

Johnny Evans requested approval to purchase a Bobcat 50-horse tractor and bucket combination to mount that machine for \$44,568.00, which is from Sourceweb who had the lowest price.

Commissioner Griffin confirmed they are looking for additional equipment to trim and mow on the paved roads for around \$50,000.00.

Byron Western said it is really for cutting the grass alongside where the regular lawn mower cannot reach. The other capabilities are a bonus.

Commissioner Griffin questioned the batwing not being able to go there and catch the grass.

Johnny Evans said yes, if you want to put a 15-foot batwing down; pull them off the other roads they are trying to maintain.

Commissioner Griffin commented that the price is high to maintain when there is other equipment.

Commissioner Pettis asked if there was a tractor that could be utilized for this.

Commissioner Bush offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Corbin, and carried 3 to 1 to approve the purchase of the Bobcat Tractor. Commissioner Griffin was opposed.

Commissioner Bush questioned if there was equipment in the inventory that would side-discharge any kind of soil. The shoulders on the newly paved roads have eroded. The sod did well but there are some drop-offs in places, which could benefit the use of a small machine that can get in there.

Johnny Evans said they have one for the skid steer.

10. PARKS UPDATE - None

11. ENGINEERING PROJECTS UPDATES

11.1 ITB 2023 – 17 Countywide Miscellaneous Concrete Construction – Jason Crenshaw, HMB Professional Engineers said there were two bidders, S.H. Hayes Enterprises for \$20,070.25 and the lowest bidder was TKS Construction for 19,914.90. The recommendation is to award both contractors since it is a continuing services contract, which will give flexibility depending on the type of work the county needs to have done. The bid was for three years with two optional one-year renewals.

Commissioner Corbin offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Bush, and carried 3 to 1 to award the countywide miscellaneous concrete continuing services contracts to TKS Construction and S.H. Hayes Enterprises. Commissioner Griffin opposed the motion.

11.2 American Sand and Asphalt Paving Task Order 2023-11-01 for Pine Bluff – Jason Crenshaw supplied the board with the following two options. 1. Reconstruct a 270-foot long by 22-foot area down at the end that has experienced base and pavement failure. This would be through the continuing services of pavement maintenance and rehabilitation contract with American Sand. The construction cost is \$73,675.00, and CEI is \$5,000.00.

2. This choice is for an inch overlay over the entire subdivision. The bid this year is around \$11,000.00 cheaper than the bid last year. Option 2 includes option 1 for a total of \$183,836.88. The more asphalt that is used, the lower the price is for

asphalt.

Commissioner Griffin questioned the funding source.

Deputy Clerk Brantley asked if the homeowners would be contributing any funding.

Danny Exum said at the beginning of this the homeowners had committed \$15,000.00. A couple of years ago they were asked to do right-of-way repairs, of which they did \$8,000.00 worth. Before the process began, they spent \$15,000.00 on patching part of the road. Almost a year ago, which they are coming upon, they agreed to contribute \$15,000.00 for paving. The possibility of an accident is concerning.

Commissioner Griffin offered a motion for option – 1 and possibly come back later and pave it due to funding. Commissioner Corbin seconded the motion for discussion saying that he hates not to do the entire thing. The bid is under a continuing services contractor, so they have time. Could the decision be tabled until January or February?

County Administrator Massey said since the road is 20 + years old patching would mean multiple failures. The entire road should be done.

Commissioner Griffin said that he supports fixing the entire road but is concerned about funding.

Commissioner Griffin amended his motion to pave the entire road (option 2) when the funds become available. Commissioner Corbin seconded the motion.

This motion did not pass.

Commissioner Corbin offered a motion to table the decision until January. Commissioner Bush seconded the motion, which carried 4 – 0.

Clerk Bell was not present at this point.

11.3 CEI Task Order 2019 – 02 -001 – K for Pine Bluff – Jason Crenshaw, HMB Professional Engineers – This item is linked to item 11.2; therefore, it will not be addressed based on the earlier motion.

11.4 Williams Road Bridge Task Order – Jonathan Sims, Dewberry addressed the board. This project was advertised in September and awarded to the contractor last month. The request before the board today is for CEI services for \$129,925.00.

Commissioner Corbin confirmed that the extension for this project was approved. Even though the extension was approved reimbursement may be held up on the state's side.

County Administrator Massey said that it is irrelevant. If there is not an upfront

cost to pay for anything to submit. It is no different than what they have discussed with other issues.

Mason Garrett, Wheeler Emergency Management said the project is funded and does have an approved time extension. To his knowledge, there is no stoppage for RFR's on this project.

Jonathan Sims reminded the board they had already accepted the contractors' bid for this project. Not accepting this could cause the project to be rebid. It was bid out in September which means they are around the 60-day mark.

Commissioner Bush offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Griffin, and carried 4 – 0 to approve the CEI services through Dewberry for \$129,925.00 for the Williams Road Bridge replacement.

12. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR – Jeff Massey addressed the board.

12.1 E-911 Equipment Cyber Security Firewall Grant for \$63,000.00

12.2 Cyber Security Network Upgrade to PSAP Grant for \$143,719.67

12.3 E-911 Grant for Recorder Yearly Maintenance

Two of the grants are for cyber security for the sheriff's office and the other is for E-911. The first two grants are to reimburse the money that the board provided for the security attack on the sheriff's software.

Commissioner Corbin offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Griffin, to apply for the grants listed as 12.1, 12.2, and 12.3.

James Brooks asked if the grants were available before the Russian hack. Could they have been obtained before that?

County Administrator Massey said there are different types of grants always available to E-911. There are new grants that have opened. There was a bill/law put into place in July that would encompass many things in that area. The state put it into law but did not have a plan to dispense the funds. This is another grant through the state. When the budget was completed this year, the plan was to replace those funds previously expended.

James Brooks said 500 employees present and past had their records compromised because of that hack. There was no due diligence in getting cyber security. It was not a priority for the sheriff's department. The times must be kept up with. Those grants were there before the hack. The sheriff spent \$17,000.00 on IT services in the previous year.

The motion on the floor carried unanimously, 4 – 0.

12.4 Wausau FDOT Lighting – FDOT made contact due to being contacted by Wausau. They are starting the design/build through there. The mayor requested state lighting in Wausau when the project occurred. The county has a lighting agreement with FDOT, which is why they made contact. Wausau does not have a

contract with FDOT, which is why FDOT made contact to help Wausau with the lighting. Wausau had not budgeted for this. The cost is around \$5,400.00 annually after rebates. In the future, Wausau can plan to include this in their budget. Through multiple discussions, it has been agreed that it would be beneficial.

Commissioner Corbin said FDOT pays \$25.00 per light, and they are asking the county to cover the difference of around \$14.00 per light.

Commissioner Bush asked if the county has an agreement that includes the lights on Highway 77 in the Sunny Hills area, around Elkcam, Deltona, and Shenandoah, lights on Highway 79, and the lights on Clayton.

County Administrator Massey said not to his knowledge. Those are state lights.

Jane Dellwo said per John Whittington, FDOT they will incur the expense to install each light, which is estimated at 32. They will reimburse \$25.00 per month per light but there was a discrepancy in what the actual bill will be versus what the reimbursement is, which amounts to \$5,400.00 annually.

Commissioner Griffin offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Corbin, and unanimously carried 4 – 0.

12.5 Building Fee Update for Reinspection – Jeff Massey said reinspection fees are common and Washington County's fee is \$40.00. The licensed building inspector who is helping the building official charges \$60.00. Bay County's fee is \$85.00, Holmes County's fee is \$70.00, Panama City Beach's fee is \$75.00, the first inspection for Jackson County is \$40.00, the second is \$80.00, and the third is \$120.00. The building inspector is requesting the reinspection fee be raised from \$40.00 to \$75.00.

Commissioner Pettis said one of the things that is occurring is the contractor waits until the inspector comes out and tells them what to do. The fee is cheap, so they pay to have another reinspection.

Commissioner Bush said in the secondary inspection they had done everything on the checklist for the C.O. and then the inspector named more things. Now they have set themselves up for another inspection, which would not have been necessary if it had been caught the first time. This was a citizen's complaint that he received. They could get the appearance that it is intentional.

Commissioner Pettis said that would be addressed internally if it became a problem. It may not be intentional, but the perception is the reality.

Commissioner Corbin offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Griffin, and unanimously carried 4 – 0 to increase the building reinspection fee from \$40.00 to \$75.00.

13.1 October Vouchers Totaling \$7,255,173.36

Kevan Parker said Mason is going to contact the state and make sure the Williams Road Bridge Project is not hung up. They also can do an advance on the project.

Commissioner Bush said the chairman is normally the liaison with the Highway 79 Corridor. It does not have to be that way, but it has been the precedence.

Commissioner Pettis said once Commissioner Hawkins is back this can be discussed.

14. COUNTY ATTORNEY - Attorney Fuqua reminded the board that ethics training is due by December 31 and sent to the state. They are not doing it this year therefore it will have to be sought online.

Larry Zezula asked the board to support whatever the sheriff needs.

15. ADJOURN