

## WASHINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Location: 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
	Chairman			Vice-Chairman

## 1. PROCLAMATION

- 1.1 Call to Order – Chairman Pettis
- 1.2 Invocation – Chairman Pettis
- 1.3 Pledge

Present – Commissioners Bush, Pettis, Hawkins, Griffin, and Corbin. Also attending – Deputy Clerk, Brantley, Clerk of Court, Lora Bell, County Administrator, Jeff Massey, and County Attorney, Milton, Fuqua & Milton, P.A.

## 2. ADOPT THE AGENDA

Agenda Additions

- 5.8 - Resolution for Boating Improvement Program for Boating Access Facilities to Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission 2024 – Candace Thames
- 6.8 – (FEMA COORDINATOR) – Generators for Critical Facilities
- 13.2 – (COUNTY ATTORNEY) – Wayside Park Discussion

Commissioner Hawkins offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Griffin, and unanimously carried to adopt the agenda.

## 3. ADOPT PREVIOUS MINUTES

- 3.1 Workshop for February 8, 2024
- 3.2 Regular Board Meeting for February 15, 2024
- 3.3 Board Meeting for March 4, 2024

Commissioner Griffin offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Corbin, and unanimously carried to approve the minutes listed from 3.1 – 3.3.

## 4. 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.

- 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.

- Benita Crittendon thanked the board and the public works department for aiding with the condition of Greenhead Road after the rain last week. Water Management is cutting trees and chipping so semi and chip trucks using the road throughout the day. Water Management and all its attractions are great for Washington County, but it carries a lot of heavy traffic, such as campers, horse trailers, boats, dog hunting, and log trucks. They have over 20 years of traffic on the road and it is unknown whether the county has held them accountable. There is a heavy traffic ordinance in place. Water Management traffic is the number one detriment to Greenhead Road, and they should be held accountable for contributing to the maintenance of the road.

The board was also given thanks for submitting Greenhead Road as a SCOP recommendation.

- Marie Cunningham extended an invitation to join in celebrating 30 years of Country Oaks Fire Department. Fundraisers and events will be held there, with this being the first one. There will be an Easter egg hunt, games, food, flea market, etc.

## 5. AGENDA ITEMS

5.1 PanCare of Florida, Inc. Introduction of Services – Alexis, Community Health Educator with PanCare addressed the board and introduced Valerie Hall, Case Manager, and went on to provide a reminder of the services provided for individuals with opioid and substance use in Washington, Jackson, Liberty, Calhoun, Franklin, Gulf, and Liberty Counties. They provide access to resources with each person's treatment plan tailored specifically to their needs. Other services include drug take-back kiosks, suicide awareness, stages of substance and/or addiction

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training, stigma training, etc. Narcan and Narcan training is provided as well.

5.2 Statewide Mutual Aid Agreement and Resolution – Connie Welch, Emergency Management Coordinator presented the agreement to the board, which has some changes in wording but is mainly the same. It is an agreement by resolution to make sure that they receive resources from other places during a disaster and ensure reimbursements. The agreement is continuously in place. The county attorney has reviewed it and did not find any issues with it.

Commissioner Hawkins offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Bush, and unanimously carried to approve the agreement and resolution as presented and listed above.

5.3 Order Imposing Fine/Administrative Lien – Janet Riedel, Code Enforcement told the board that this is related to the public hearing in May for resolution 2023 – 11, which was a resolution to demolish a condemned property, which was done by the public works department. The county abated that, and it was understood in the hearing that the cost of the abatement would be the responsibility of the property owner. Per finance, there has not been a payment toward the amount of \$8,800.02.

County Attorney Milton said this is the next step. The motion would be to impose the lien/record for the cost of the abatement.

Commissioner Hawkins confirmed that the lien must be imposed within a certain period after the abatement.

Commissioner Hawkins offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Corbin, and unanimously carried to approve of the imposition of the lien.

5.4 Request to Reappoint Gary Hartman for District 1 MSBU Committee – Alan Bush offered a motion to reappoint Gary Hartman to the MSBU Committee for District 1 representative. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hawkins and unanimously approved.

5.5 Request to Appoint Lelon Carroll for District 2 MSBU Committee – David Pettis said that Mr. Carroll has been a resident of Sunny Hills for around a year and is willing to be a committee member.

Commissioner Corbin offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Bush, and unanimously carried to approve the MSBU Committee/District 1 appointment for Lelon Carroll.

5.6 Request to Appoint Brian Goddin for District 3 MSBU Committee – Tray Hawkins said that he confirmed with Mr. Goddin that he is willing to serve on the MSBU Committee/District 3. Commissioner Hawkins offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Corbin, and unanimously carried to approve appointing Brian Goddin to the MSBU Committee/District 3.

- 5.7 Radio Equipment Request – Randy Truette, Communications Chair provided a breakdown of the current needs to correct some deficiencies in the county. They include emergency management, EMS, public works, animal control, and fire services. The total for the radio upgrade is \$61,626.73. There is \$128,000.00 in the Communications Budget, with \$1,600.00 collected monthly from the \$12.50 funds. The wait period is 12 – 16 weeks for the radios.

Commissioner Bush offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Hawkins to approve the purchase of the radios from the communications fund.

Commissioner Hawkins said the repeater is being put in at the Holmes Valley Tower and has the sole purpose of emergency communication services. Will that along with the purchase of the radios be the solution for all the communication issues in the county?

Randy Truette said that it is a key part of the solution. They are headed in a good direction with the sheriff's tower. The City of Chipley will have their tower put up by year end and they will all interconnect and communicate with one another and communicate with the towers. Some of the current radios would not.

County Attorney Milton confirmed with Randy Truette that radios are being bought through state contract bids.

The motion to buy the radios was carried unanimously.

- 5.8 Boating Resolution Shell Landing Boat Ramp Improvements – Candace Thames, Grants Department presented a resolution before the board to authorize the submission of an application for the Florida Boating Improvement Program for the boating access facilities by Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission for the 2024 funding cycle for Shell Landing Boat Ramp.

Commissioner Hawkins offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Corbin, and unanimously carried to approve the resolution for the application for improvements at Shell Landing Boat Ramp.

## 6. FEMA COORDINATOR – Kevan Parker

- 6.1 Notice to Proceed for Worley Road – The Worley Road Project is currently moving through FEMA's approval process. It has moved through mitigation, and it is in DHP. As of the meeting on Monday, the estimated final approval time is 2 weeks. Approval is requested, contingent upon FEMA's final approval of the notice of award to Extreme Land (low bidder) who has met with Melvin Engineering and met with them at the annex to ensure everything is in place to begin once approval is given. Brent Melvin sent their contract package to the county attorneys for their final review. Approval is also requested to issue a notice to proceed to Extreme Land contingent upon FEMA's approval.

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Commissioner Bush offered a motion to go ahead with awarding the construction of the Worley Road Project to Extreme Land contingent upon FEMA's approval. Commissioner Corbin seconded the motion.

Commissioner Griffin asked what the county's upfront cost is.

Kevan Parker said it should not be anything. State sharing will be received, and it is a 90/10 storm. FEMA does 90 and the state typically picks up 10%. Washington County has a cost waiver due to being a fiscally constrained county.

Brent Melvin said the cross drains and the mitered ends were covered under the mitigation. The only items that were not covered were the fencing and the driveway, which totaled \$34,582.00, which would be the largest cost to the county. During construction, they intend to look to minimize the amount that they would have to move the fences. That would cover 630 linear feet of Type-A fence, two 16-foot gates, two 32-foot gates, and the driveway base which is where the ditches must be transitioned on either side.

Chairman Pettis confirmed that the work would be done by a contractor at the county's expense.

Commissioner Griffin confirmed that it is a Hurricane Sally Project.

The motion on the floor carried unanimously.

- ITB 2024-01 Worley Road Mitigation Notice of Award
- ITB 2024-01 Worley Road Recommendation Letter

6.2 Task Work Order for David H. Melvin (Melvin Engineering) - \$98,752.50  
Commissioner Hawkins offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Corbin, and unanimously carried to approve the task order for David H. Melvin (Melvin Engineering) to perform the CEI for Worley Road.

6.3 Williams Road Bridge Update – Johnathan Sims, Dewberry said that the project is on schedule on the overall contract time. All piles have been placed and the pile driving analyzer test was good on them. Two caps have been put on and there are two more caps that have formed. If the water calms down, they could put those on and begin the bridge deck.

Commissioner Hawkins asked about the added floating dock at Culpepper Landing.

Jonathan Sims said that he would need to contact Cliff Knauer about that since it is under him.

- 6.4 Drainage Improvements for Ag Center – Kevan Parker said between Melvin Engineering and Alday-Howell they have the plans and specs for the drainage at the Ag Center along with parking improvements. It has been split into separate projects. One includes drainage, which is what is covered under FEMA work. The other would include the parking improvements, which would be an overlay/paving, which would be the county’s responsibility. Approval is needed to put a bid out for the drainage/paving project.

Commissioner Hawkins offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Bush to approve of issuing the bid for the drainage/paving project.

Commissioner Corbin confirmed that this is the project that the money has already been received on.

Kevan Parker and Clerk Bell confirmed that as correct.

The motion carried unanimously.

- 6.5 Wheeler Emergency Management Task Orders for April, May, and June 2024 – Kevan Parker said the task orders are related to Hurricane Michael, Hurricane Sally, COVID, HMGP, COVID HMGP, Ian, and Buyout HMGP. Some may have been missed but the projects are the same as they have been.

Commissioner Griffin asked if the reimbursements for Wheeler Emergency Management have continued.

Kevan Parker said it is at 50% hold. The state has it locked off at 50%. Once they exceed 50% reimbursements are picked up that way.

Commissioner Corbin asked if money have been received for the emergency management contractor in the last five months.

Kevan Parker and Clerk Bell said no.

Commissioner Griffin asked if Wheeler Emergency Management is being paid for the documentation that is being sent for reimbursement. Should the work have been done when the paperwork was originally turned in?

Kevan responded no to the paperwork having to be turned in before. They did it based on what they asked, which is outside the original scope of the projects.

Commissioner Hawkins offered a motion to approve the Wheeler Emergency Management task orders for April – June. Commissioner

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Corbin seconded it for discussion.

Commissioner Corbin asked what happens if they do not continue with the task orders. They are all concerned about the money.

Commissioner Griffin said maybe Wheeler Emergency Management should be put on hold just as the other contractors are until the money is situated.

Kevan Parker said as of March 1 they would not have a task order to do the work. They would not be doing the work.

Commissioner Griffin said maybe it is time to get away.

Commissioner Corbin expressed concern about not wanting to lose Worley Road Bridge. Some parts are moving, such as Worley Road. There should not be any extra work. Only the parts that are moving. Anything that is being reimbursed should be kept going. No more money should be spent than necessary whether it is for Wheeler or contractors.

Commissioner Hawkins said it gives the county administrator and the chairman the ability to approve what is needed for the work to be continued.

Kevan Parker said there is daily activity on the HMGP projects Michael Buyouts.

County Attorney Milton asked if Wheeler's fee is being reimbursed for those projects.

Kevan Parker said yes. They are in those contracts. There is 5% set aside for managing that and there is an up-front cost for producing those documents.

Benita Crittendon said the paving project needs to be finished. It has caused this county more hardship than it is worth. There are necessity projects that need to be completed within the county about Hurricane Michael or Sally. Less than a year ago, the board discussed the renewal of Wheeler Emergency Management's contract. Multiple county employees and elected officials said Wheeler Emergency Management was doing a great job. They meet their deadlines. Nothing gets denied. Reimbursements are going great. Now we are \$9 million in debt because FEMA reimbursements have stopped. The board needs to talk about it as much as possible here. It is not spoken about publicly in meetings as much as it needs to be. There are a lot of people that are misinformed.

She went on to say that she has a specific timeline of when things started

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slowing down, and extensions stopped happening. Three commissioners on the board were kept out of the loop intentionally by other commissioners and county officials, which is clear on what was occurring with FEMA.

Chairman Pettis said that he is aware there is a motion and a second. Would it be the board's pleasure to give him more direction to sign the task orders on an as-needed basis and approve these monthly?

Commissioner Corbin said that is what is understood with the current motion.

Commissioner Griffin said they need to end the paving and move forward with the most pressing things. Has 75/80 miles of dirt road been paved? They need to be done with FEMA and get back to county business. How will \$9 million in debt be paid back? Who will pay it back if they do not receive reimbursements?

County Attorney Milton said as far as the \$9 million FEMA reimbursement, those funds have already been spent. It is understood that the county manager and chairman have been involved in additional communication. As far as Wheeler is involved in that, if there is a request for information would county staff or Wheeler be expected to provide it? If it is the board's direction to the county manager to put all that on hold it is understood that all of that is already on hold. The only thing they are doing as far as the paving projects are getting the information to FEMA so that the county can receive reimbursement. It is the board's choice; however, things may need to be clarified to the county manager how it is anticipated to work.

Commissioner Corbin said getting the needed paperwork for reimbursement is a priority. Only send what is being asked for.

Commissioner Griffin asked what if there was no reimbursement. How will they get their money?

Commissioner Pettis said they are not. The county would pay the debt.

Commissioner Griffin asked who carries the responsibility for it not being done properly. The engineers? Wheeler? Why are they in this position?

Kevan Parker said they were not in this position until they stopped reimbursing.

Commissioner Griffin asked why reimbursements stopped.

Kevan Parker said because they had information from citizens that things



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were not right. Roads were being paved for private people. There were 600 + requests to Florida Division of Emergency Management from locals who wanted stuff. It caused a lot of confusion on their side. They are trying to get to the real problem.

Commissioner Griffin said they went from 2 inches to 1 ½ inches, which was discussed at the last meeting. Does that have anything to do with it?

Kevan Parker said yes. That is the issue. In the scope of work, it said 2 inches of asphalt. None of the other items had dimensions (sod, fabric, base). Then it said it must be designed by a Florida registered professional engineer. When an engineer designs a road, he considers all factors. He is trying to tie the entire system together and a part of that is the most economical option. What the professional engineer designs is what should be followed because he is responsible for the road. If they dictate outside of that, it comes back to the county. Two of the road zones were approved for the 1 ½. 12 months was given to make a scope change for others. FEMA initially said they had precedence, and they would work through it at close. Now it has been moved from close out to now.

Commissioner Griffin confirmed with Kevan Parker that the hold-up is regarding 1 ½ inches to 2 inches. If the county does not get reimbursed, what is the step process after that? Would the engineer be responsible? You?

Kevan Parker said that he did not know that he could answer that. It would be a combination, he is sure.

Commissioner Griffin said that he wanted to be sure someone would be responsible for this money. Not the taxpayers or the county's people. The board hired him and the engineers to design this, not the taxpayers.

County Attorney Milton asked if FEMA says the roads have to be 2 inches, would they give the county time to correct that by putting down an additional ½ inch on the roads?

Kevan Parker said that has been their plan. There is a miscellaneous asphalt contractor that could be tasked with it.

Commissioner Griffin questioned who would be responsible for the expense.

Kevan Parker said that it would be on the project cost.

Commissioner Griffin disagreed saying the county should not be out of any money.

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County Administrator Massey said they have had several conversations, not only with the state. They had a conversation with FEMA and the state last week. Any information that they have requested has been provided to them. It is in review at FEMA, and they are figuring out the 1 ½ - 2-inch issues. It is a deviation from the scope of work and that is what they are looking at. There is also terminology that the design from a Florida professional engineer should be followed. FEMA is deciding that. Likely, both of those things should not have been in the same document. They said there should be guidance on how to proceed by the end of the month.

Commissioner Hawkins said FEMA has had this for some time, but they have not had it for as long as he thought. They received the letter for non-reimbursements or stopping at the end of September. According to FEMA, they did not get a letter regarding any of this until the early part of November.

County Administrator Massey said that is his understanding. They have everything they need now to decide. A decision by the end of the month is hopeful. Calls are scheduled on Mondays with FEMA's contractor, Carr Riggs, who is handling a lot of this for the state. They are providing updates on projects and other monies that they can move through that are not affiliated with the finite roads that are in question.

Commissioner Pettis asked if the motion on the table is still to approve all task orders from April – June 2024 on a case-by-case basis between the county administrator and himself.

County Administrator Massey asked if the task orders would be approved by his signature.

County Attorney Milton said that it would be a coordination between him and the chairman.

Commissioner Griffin added that they would select what was most pressing at the time.

Larry Zezula said somebody is under FBI investigation and the board chose to proceed with them. It is confusing because there was a stop order issued and a debt paid of \$9/12 million. Why would payment be given if a stop work order has been issued by the federal government to a company that the board is dealing with? Will the county work be done that needs to be done? It would be thought that (Wesley) Commissioner Griffin could oversee something like that since he has a lot of experience with road work.

Nan Thompson asked if all the commissioners were notified in September that the work was stopped or if there were a select few? Who is the

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custodian of FEMA records?

Chairman Pettis said the records request should be sent through the public records procedure. Depending on the record, the custodian may vary.

The motion regarding the task orders for Wheeler Emergency Management was carried unanimously.

- 6.6 Sally Roads Discussion – Kevan Parker said they have a vast difference in cost, which is based on the DOT average rates for this area. Some of the Hurricane Michael rates on the road projects were also used. The rates are higher than what FEMA is using because they are using RSMeans, and some of those numbers are 10 – 12 years old. Wheeler’s figure is around \$4.5/5 million on the FEMA side which seems to be about half based on what Wheeler has done. Most of the roads have a rock dirt base or dirt that they are putting out and trying to get cost for. What they have asked to do is put out a bid to receive a realistic cost. A schedule has been built for road zones 1 and 2. If approved today they will go out in 2 weeks. The final bid packages will be before the board at the May meeting, which works out to be around 63 days. On May 1 the bid will be put out. The last three, which are 3,4, and 5 road groups each have a couple of sub-sections under them. The request before the board is to do all the Hurricane Sally roads over the next 5 – 6 months beginning now, with one going out in 2 weeks.

Commissioner Bush asked if road groups 1 and 2 are 20% of the roads.

Kevan Parker responded probably. All the roads that are being done are in each one of the road groups. When a road group bid is received that will be the actual cost that they will come back and obligate. The biggest concern with that is FEMA; and they committed that they would do that; there is only a specific amount of time once the bids are accepted to award the contract and go out. If FEMA does not process it, that contractor may not hold that bid, which is something they have seen lately. They are trying to fight that, and they have agreed to work with them to get them through.

Commissioner Griffin asked how much was approved for Hurricane Sally roads through FEMA. Are the quotes for asphalt or pre-hurricane condition? How many miles of road are estimated for Hurricane Sally?

Kevan Parker said none of it is truly obligated but what is in there is around \$5 million, however, Wheeler feels it should be around \$9 million. The roads will be put back to pre-disaster conditions and then they will look at mitigation. They will be looking at a thicker base/thicker rock. They have not gotten that far. An estimate would be 100.

Commissioner Corbin asked what the timeframe is. He would like to find out what is going to occur with Hurricane Michael before moving forward with Hurricane Sally.

County Attorney Milton said that it is his understanding that he is not asking for approval of a contract but to issue a bid which will take 60 days before they are in.

Kevan Parker said that it would be presented at the May workshop.

Commissioner Griffin suggested that everything should be put on hold until things are situated with Hurricane Michael.

Kevan Parker said that it is what was asked from the state and FEMA.

Commissioner Griffin said if time runs out, it just runs out. They are getting up and down the roads just fine now.

Commissioner Corbin disagreed.

Commissioner Griffin suggested buying more graders.

Commissioner Corbin suggested holding off for a couple of weeks in hopes that they would have more answers. He supports fixing the roads and if they can get the money for Hurricane Sally it should not be wasted especially if the roads can be mitigated and put in better shape than they were. There is a cost to bidding the projects out.

Commissioner Griffin offered a motion to pump the brakes until Hurricane Michael projects are figured out regarding the reimbursements. Commissioner Corbin seconded the motion.

County Attorney Milton asked if the board decides to move forward with those projects is there a deadline to have the Hurricane Sally Projects completed?

Kevan Parker said the deadline to have them encumbered has passed due to going back and forth. They have asked for this to be done promptly. What he has now can obligated and then do the best they can. One of the options was to bid the work and do the work with the overrun being the responsibility of the county. A small project netting would be done. Anything under \$1 million is a small project. If their numbers are right, \$4/5 million will be held for years to do a small project netting to get money back, which he would never recommend.

Commissioner Griffin said that he wanted to stick with his motion.

Commissioner Corbin said they will never be done with FEMA.

Commissioner Griffin said that he was not saying that. He is tired of Hurricane Michael and Hurricane Sally. It has been 5 years. They need to prepare for the next disaster. They will always need FEMA.

Commissioner Griffin said that he wanted to stick with his motion.

Benita Crittendon said she found a document online about Hurricane Sally funding approval for Washington County which was passed on to a couple of commissioners. A couple of the commissioners have had a good idea of what is going on and reservations. The third one is commended for beginning to see the light. There needs to be some conservatism on this issue. A few months back, Jason Gilmore, Wheeler Emergency Management spoke on how Washington County had so many roads, received a specific amount of money, and did not have to go into debt to do it. Less than six months later and it is not because of citizens asking questions. It is because engineers and the emergency management company made decisions that they were not officially approved for. Yes, citizens asked questions and things may get investigated, but ultimately, they did not finish their project.

Mr. Griffin, Mr. Corbin, and Mr. Pettis did you know that FEMA reimbursements ended before October 30? No, you were not informed which is information obtained from individual discussions with each one of the three. There is censorship available through the state statute for you three commissioners for whatever officials have purposely kept information from you to make informed votes and decisions.

The document mentioned about Hurricane Sally can be provided or it can be found online. There is a reason they hail that Washington County was the only county that was approved for Hurricane Sally. The commissioners should be wary of that as you all should have been with what was going on with Hurricane Michael.

The motion on the floor by Commissioner Griffin was carried unanimously.

- 6.7 HMGP Michael Buyout – Kevan Parker said there is a contract in place for the HMGP Michal Buyout. This would be a replacement contract. The original contract estimate was \$3.6 million, and the final contract was \$2,919,558.95, which will need to be signed. It will include text change that includes the \$9,600.00 related to appraisals, which was not figured out originally. It occurred from the time of award to the actual signing. It is dead timing there that this was done at the Florida Division of Emergency Management's request.

There is a separate thing for Wheeler's SRMC cost which is the pre-disaster cost for around \$38,000.00 to produce documents before award that the money is sitting there. The cost is less because a couple of houses dropped out.

Commissioner Hawkins offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Corbin, and unanimously carried to approve the updated contract amount, language regarding \$9,600.00, and the memo about the SRMC cost.

- 6.8 Generator for Critical Facilities – Kevan Parker said the agreement has been sent from the state. TSC Electrical was the low bidder for \$637,000.00 to install generators at the Wausau Town Hall, the health department, the annex, Mudhill Tower, and the sheriff's office. The funding source is HMGP, the annex generator will have a 25% cost share, and the Wausau Town Hall will cover theirs. The annex cost share is around \$62,430.00. The generator will run the entire annex.

It was confirmed that the cost share will come from the general fund.

Clerk Bell said this has been ongoing for quite some time.

Commissioner Bush offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Hawkins, and unanimously carried to issue a notice to proceed for TSC Electrical.

There was a recess at this point.

7. MSBU ADVISOR COMMITTEE UPDATE – Gary Hartman told the board the next meeting is May 8. He went on to tell the board the committee is thankful for the board finding members for the committee, which allows them to keep their quorums.

8. PUBLIC WORKS SUPERVISOR – Johnny Evans

- 8.1 Purchase of F-250 and F-350 Trucks – The F-250 for \$49,158.50 is for George Swauger and his truck will be used in the public works fleet. The F-350, for \$69,811.00, will be used for the sign shop. There is a request for a 4-ton hotbox for \$37,905.00. C.W. Roberts, Anderson Columbia, and one other were contacted for pricing. Anderson was the only one that provided a price, which was \$110.00 per ton for asphalt. They are paying \$160.00/165.00 per ton for the cold patch.

Commissioner Corbin offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Griffin, and unanimously carried to buy the equipment presented above.

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Commissioner Griffin offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Bush, and unanimously carried to approve the surplus of the patch truck as requested by Johnny Evans.

The asphalt that Byron Western looked at from Phoenix Construction has oyster shells and is sandy. Gene Strickland reached out and will have asphalt from work being done near the first exit in Marianna, which they would like to buy 25 – 50 loads. This item is for informational purposes because the purchase price is under County Administrator Massey's spending limit.

Commissioner Hawkins requested public works straighten the dirt track at the Vernon Elementary School while school is out on Spring Break. This is something that has been done annually. There was no opposition from the board.

8.2 This item was addressed in 8.1.

9. PARKS UPDATE – George Swauger

9.1 Portalet Service Agreement Update – The new company is being used and portalets have been placed at Wayside, Strickland, Two Creek, Hicks Lake, Jenkins, Culpepper, Cedar Tree, Caryville, Mudhill Pit, Hero Pit, public works, and Billy Lee Landing. Some verbiage was updated; however, it does not change the service. An ADA-style portalet was placed at Strickland.

County Attorney Milton said the verbiage adjustments do not need board approval.

9.2 St. Joseph Park Update – They continue to work toward improvements at the park. The fence that was falling has been fixed. They are moving toward having the annual Memorial Day event there. Eulis Sheffield has requested flags be installed and has offered to provide some of the materials. The Amvets may provide a flagpole and flags, and the county will supply the labor to install them. An updated veteran's sign will be installed in the place of the sign that was removed. Vandalism at the parks is down as cameras continue to be installed.

Commissioner Hawkins requested George put a portalet at Shell Landing.

George Swauger told the board there is an upcoming event at Campbell Park, which he was not initially aware of. It is asked that the community work together to coordinate events as he is still working with limited resources.

Commissioner Hawkins mentioned the sheriff's office having more outreach events.

Tiffany Stevenson said that she would provide the schedule to George.

Chairman Pettis told George Swauger they have not been able to tie any grant funds being used at Fanning Branch regarding the gazebo area. The board was asked if they knew of any grant funds used there.

George Swauger asked if they are committed to maintaining that.

Commissioner Hawkins said that he believes the building was built by John Paul Cook, the earlier property owner before FEMA bought the property through a flood mitigation program.

George Swauger said it is in bad condition as well as the dock system going from that building, and he would like to demo it.

Commissioner Hawkins sent John Paul Cook's contact information to George.

Commissioner Bush confirmed that George proposed to tear the structure down if it was not associated with any grant requirements and put something else there. There should not be any issue with that, and he is in favor of it.

10. ENGINEERING PROJECTS UPDATE – None

11. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR – Jeff Massey addressed the board.

- 11.1 SCOP RESOLUTION – Holmes Valley Road Phase I from Otto Brock Road to Evans Road approximately 1.2 miles. – Commissioner Hawkins offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Bush to approve the SCRAP Resolution as presented.

James Brooks asked if there has been a traffic study on Holmes Valley or Greenhead.

County Administrator Massey said that any requirements for submission of the applications have been done. Holmes Valley Road has a design on it and the county has \$300,000.00 invested in Greenhead Road.

Brent Melvin, Project Manager for Melvin Engineering said that a traffic study is not required. Typically depending on the program, it depends on what roads are identified. The state is usually looking for corridor roadways to help alleviate congestion on state roadways.

James Brooks asked who determines the roads that are submitted to the programs.



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County Administrator Massey confirmed that the board had previously given him direction. The roads that are being proposed have been partially funded, will have a Phase II, or have already been designed and applied for previously.

Commissioner Hawkins said this was not Mr. Massey's decision. The board voted on this at the last meeting with suggestions being brought before him and having him move forward with it.

James Brooks asked how many roads can be submitted each year.

Mr. Massey said you are allowed to submit two for SCRAP and SCOP, one for C-IGP, and one for B-SCOP, however, due to the state's budget situation they are recommending that one road be submitted for each. When the submissions are made, they will be prioritized.

The motion on the floor carried unanimously.

- 11.2 SCOP RESOLUTION – Greenhead Road – Commissioner Griffin offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Corbin to approve the resolution as presented by Mr. Massey.

Benita Crittendon thanked the board for submitting Greenhead Road and requested that Mr. Massey not let the ball drop on this like last year. Cliff Knauer has done a lot of footwork on the Greenhead Road project and has a lot of historical knowledge; therefore it is requested of the board that Dewberry remain on the project.

The motion carried unanimously.

- 11.3 SCRAP RESOLUTION – County Road 276 (Clayton Road) – Phase 2 from Hard Labor Creek to State Road 77 (approximately 2.6 miles). A part of Clayton East was submitted last year and that is scheduled to be done in 2027. The trend seems to be for projects to be done in phases.

Commissioner Griffin offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Corbin to approve the SCRAP resolution for Clayton Road (CR 276).

Commissioner Bush confirmed with Mr. Massey that the portion from County Road 277 to Hard Labor has previously been approved.

The board discussed submitting Creek Road.

County Administrator Massey said the board asked for the engineer's help with the road submissions and Clayton was their recommendation.

The motion carried unanimously.

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B-SCOP RESOLUTION – Gum Creek #2 Bridge (Bethel Road) – County Administrator Massey said they already have funding for #1.

Commissioner Corbin offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Griffin, and unanimously carried to approve the resolution for Gum Creek #2 Bridge.

11.4 OPIOIDS SETTLEMENT DISCUSSION – County Administrator Massey provided a proposed template for the opioid settlement funds.

Randy Truette said the funds will direct addicts to the correct contacts such as PanCare and Life Management. The fire department staff will be trained so they can administer first response and Narcan in overdose situations. They will also be doing follow-up visits with those who have overdosed and their family members. The first payment will mainly be for capital items and after that, it will likely be used to help fund a position to carry this through. Public and school education will also be included as well as programs at the jail.

County Administrator Massey said this is the first of 18 years of this funding.

Commissioner Griffin offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Corbin, and unanimously carried to approve the template for the opioid funds.

Commissioner Corbin expressed his pleasure with fire being included.

Larry Zezula said this sounds like a good plan.

Valerie Hall said this is affecting everyone and it is good it is being talked about.

Bradley Porter said PanCare is a good treatment program, which helps with mental and physical help as well as counseling.

The motion on the floor carried unanimously.

County Administrator Massey told the board the EOC staff, himself and Benita attended training provided by the state on FEMA PA, which was very informative.

There was a lightning strike at the jail last Saturday. The damage cost at this time is unknown but the board will be informed.

12. CLERK – Clerk Bell

12.1 February Vouchers Totaling \$3,837,876.47

13. COUNTY ATTORNEY – Attorney Milton addressed the board.

13.1 EMS AMBULANCE PURCHASE/LOAN - Attorney Milton told the board that he discussed the bond issue, and certification that is required to comply with the existing bond with Clerk Bell. There is a bond covenant in that bond that is causing Clerk Bell some discomfort to go out and borrow additional funds not knowing exactly what is going to occur with FEMA. The request was for the county to borrow the funds and pledge ad valorem/what was the collateral/how it would be paid. It is understood after speaking with Randy Truette and Seamus O'Neill that the payments for the ambulance will come from their EMS budget. From a lender's standpoint and the county's standpoint, there is the question of whether the certification can be issued. Is it tax-exempt? Can they proceed with the loan? Without the certification from Clerk Bell, it is suggested that Randy Truette, the EMS Director, and the bank go back, and have it processed through the sheriff's office, which is no different than it was done in the past. This item is for informational purposes.

Commissioner Hawkins asked if the title would come to the county.

County Attorney Milton said through the sheriff/the county. There is no lien.

13.2 Wayside Park – Discussions have been had with Mrs. Blackmon's attorney who said that one of her primary concerns was access to her property. It was understood that there was no direction from the board to prevent her from accessing her property even through the boat ramp parcel. A suggestion is to grant an easement to her through that property. The question is what the location of the easement is. A blanket easement can be done for ingress and egress strictly to her property. This is not for parking or using the boat ramp for her business or anything along those lines. Board direction is needed to move forward with the easement if that is the board's decision the form can be brought back, or the chairman can be given the authority to sign the easement in correlation with the settlement that was previously approved. Attorney Green filed a motion for rehearing which stops the process from the court's standpoint before an appeal is filed. He would need an order from the judge on that motion for rehearing before he would be able to file that appeal. The lawsuit is at a standstill, but discussions are still ongoing to complete everything.

Commissioner Hawkins said the geographical location will not change. The ingress and egress have always been there. There is a small road going back through her property.

Commissioner Hawkins offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Corbin, and unanimously carried to grant Mrs. Blackmon the easement they are asking.

Commissioner Pettis reminded everyone of the upcoming Amnesty Day scheduled for this upcoming Saturday.

14. ADJOURN