

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

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, Finance Director, Johnnie Pettis, and Attorney Fuqua, Fuqua & Milton, P.A.

2. PUBLIC HEARING

- 2.1 Smith Small Scale Future Land Use Map Amendment – Dawn McDonald, Senior Planner presented the Smith request for a land use amendment from conservation to agriculture/silviculture. They have two lots which are approximately 8 acres of which both have access. The public notice requirements were met. One neighbor attended the neighborhood meeting for informational purposes. Staff and the planning commission recommended approval at the planning commission meeting on April 1.
- 2.2 White Small Scale Future Land Use Map Amendment – Dawn McDonald, Senior Planner presented the White request for a land use amendment from agriculture/silviculture to residential-low for one parcel that is approximately 11 acres. The amendment is to allow an added dwelling unit. The current land use allows for one home unless they use the immediate family exception, however, in this case, they were not able to use the immediate family exception. The public notice requirements were met. There was no neighbor attendance at the neighborhood meeting. At the planning commission meeting on April 1, staff and the planning commission recommended approval.

3. ADOPT THE AGENDA

- Additions – 7.10 – Request for Approval of Consolidated Solid Waste Management Grant Application
- 7.11 – King Road over Gum Creek Bridge B-SCOP Task Order

Commissioner Bush offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Corbin, and unanimously carried to approve the agenda.

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.

5. ADOPT PREVIOUS MINUTES

- 5.1 Regular Board Meeting for March 14, 2024 – Commissioner Griffin offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Corbin, and unanimously carried to approve the minutes listed for item 5.1.
- 5.2 Emergency/Special Meeting for March 25, 2024 – Commissioner Griffin offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Bush, and unanimously carried to approve the minutes listed for item 5.2.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

- 6.1 Approval to Advertise RFQ for Lobbying Services
- 6.2 Approval of FTE (Full Time Equivalent) for Inmate Supervisor Position
- 6.3 Approval for Chairman to Sign VAB (Value Adjustment Board) Agreement

Commissioner Hawkins offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Bush, and unanimously carried to approve the consent agenda.

7. AGENDA ITEMS

- 7.1 Recognition of Al Keown for 20 Years of Service to the Washington County

- Planning Commission – David Pettis, Jr., Chairman – The board recognized Mr. Keown for his years of service on the Washington County Planning Commission and presented him with a plaque.
- 7.2 Smith Small Scale Future Land Use Map Amendment – Commissioner Corbin offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Bush, and unanimously carried to approve the land use request listed as 7.2.
- 7.3 White Small Scale Future Land Use Map Amendment – Commissioner Hawkins offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Griffin, and unanimously carried to approve the land use request listed as 7.3.
- 7.4 FEMA Timeline - Benita Crittenden, a Citizen addressed the board. Commissioner Corbin, County Administrator Massey, and herself met before the Greenhead Road SCOP Road application. After that discussion, they discussed some of the FEMA issues. In the meeting, County Administrator Massey said that the county was notified on September 29 that FEMA reimbursements had stopped. At the March 14 board meeting, Commissioner Hawkins said the county was informed in late September that the FEMA reimbursements had stopped. In the three meetings that followed in October, it is clear that County Administrator Massey and then Chairman Hawkins did not disseminate to at least three commissioners that FEMA reimbursements had stopped for several weeks afterward. Those commissioners did not find out from direct communication from County Administrator Massey or in a public meeting from Commissioner Hawkins. They found out through DEM after she urged them to call DEM. There was a failure in duty, intentional or not to properly inform the board of significant issues with the county. When DEM reached out in September and said reimbursements were being stopped, the county administrator should have spoken to each commissioner individually or the chairman at that time should have addressed it in a public meeting. It was big enough for a large line of credit to be taken out.

During the October meeting where Jason Gilmore, Wheeler Emergency Management Representative came before the board to talk about the work extension deadline. There was a long discussion about why it was being brought before the board two days before the deadline. After the discussion, there was a question asked by Commissioner Griffin, Commissioner Pettis, Mr. Brooks, and herself if anything was going on that had happened in Washington County that had caused the work extensions not to be approved. She also asked during that meeting if there was any type of investigation going on that would cause the work extensions not to be approved or for reimbursements to be stopped. The answer was a lot of shrugged shoulders between Commissioner Hawkins, and Mr. Massey, and not to my knowledge. It is thought that Commissioner Griffin said no because at that time he did not have that knowledge, nor Commissioner Corbin and Pettis.

On October 12, at the workshop, then Chairman Hawkins and County Administrator Massey presented a discussion about increasing the county's line of credit. The reason they presented for the line of credit increases was to continue projects uninterrupted so that the county is not so dependent on FEMA reimbursements to keep the flow of the FEMA projects moving to avoid pauses in construction. Then Chairman Hawkins expressed wishes to ask for at least \$20 million in the line of credit with the explanation being to prevent work from being paused and separating the use of general fund monies from FEMA projects. The general fund monies have been financing the FEMA projects. The FEMA project must be completed and then the county waits on the reimbursement. For someone in business, that explanation of separating money makes sense. A businessperson typically does not use cash on hand to finance projects. When the proposition was presented County Administrator Massey, and previous Chairman Hawkins knew that FEMA reimbursements had stopped.

It is not known personally what Alan Bush thinks about this because there has not been any direct discussion. The other three have been talked to and she and the three of them know that they did not have that knowledge.

It feels like it is intentionally misleading. It is thought to be theater but specifically, it is a selective dissemination of information to manipulate a desired outcome by not giving 100% of the information.

On October 17 it was known from sitting in the gallery that things did not add up, therefore she called DEM and asked questions finally ending up speaking to Kevin Adkison, Recovery Specialist and he explained why the work extension had been halted. From that conversation, she did not know the FEMA reimbursements had stopped. From this conversation, she told three commissioners that they should call Kevin Adkison because they were not receiving all of the information. On October 18, a couple of the commissioners reached out and 4/5 days later the third commissioner. From this point, the three commissioners knew they were not receiving all the information.

On October 19, Attorney Fuqua presented a discussion about the meeting he, Commissioner Hawkins, and Clerk Bell had with Florida First Federal. Again, Commissioner Hawkins explained the reason for the line of credit was to keep Clerk Bell's general fund money separate from FEMA money and keep FEMA work moving forward. It is likely at this point Attorney Fuqua knew funds were being withheld.

Commissioner Bush asked Benita Crittendon what she found out from the October 17 call.

Benita Crittendon said Kevin Adkison gave her the reason for the work extensions being withheld. At that time, the reasons were the 2.5-inch asphalt issue and private road questions.

At this point, Commissioners Griffin and Pettis had not been informed that FEMA reimbursements had been stopped. Per a discussion with Commissioner Corbin around this time he had been told by Kevin Adkison that DEM had stopped the reimbursements. That information is per text messages between herself and David Corbin.

On November 3, it is believed that is when Commissioner Griffin found out FEMA reimbursements had stopped and that the \$6 million line of credit had been exhausted. From September 3 – November 3 at least one commissioner found out about the line of credit and the reimbursements. Now the board is in a position to vote for a \$20 million line of credit. A \$20 million line of credit did not occur which is assumed because the bank did not allow it, therefore, \$12 million was presented and voted on at the first meeting where Commissioner Pettis was chairman.

It is a pattern of behavior of selective dissemination of information for this board and the previous board. It is past time to hold people accountable for that.

She and County Administrator Massey have had respectable discussions. He has the ability and the talent to do some things well, however, there have been some failures. As of September, he has a 2-year contract that was voted on just before these incidents. County Administrator Massey has said to the three commissioners that he thought he called everybody. The three commissioners know when they found out and from whom they found out. The county administrator's job is to be the liaison due to the Sunshine Law. It is his job to keep the commissioners informed equally. In a sense, that lack of performance could be a cause for termination. At the very least it should be an open discussion with the commissioners to note that in Jeff Massey's file in case there is a future need for it. Regardless of the county administrator's failure to speak with the commissioners for over a month, it was for then Chairman Hawkins to make it known in the first public meeting after that occurred. It was not mentioned by anyone, which is misleading by omission of information.

Censorship has no legal implications. Censorship is when a board of commissioners votes for a formal disapproval of the performance of another board member. It shows a lack of faith. What occurred throughout October and leading into November is felt to be intentionally misleading for three commissioners. The lack of information cannot be proved as intentional. Regardless, it was a failure on Jeff Massey's part as county administrator and then Chairman Hawkins to make sure the board was fully informed of what was going on in the county.

It is concerning that during those three meetings, it was obvious that other people in the room knew FEMA reimbursements had stopped, which included county employees, county contractors, and other elected officials. The county needed a line of credit to pay their bills because FEMA reimbursements had stopped, but that is not how it was presented. Those people sitting in this room knew that FEMA reimbursements had stopped and that it was a false narrative being presented and they were silent. It could be because they knew, or they were job-scared and did not want to say anything or they assumed that all the board members knew the real reason and it was a collaborative effort among all the board members to keep it camouflaged. It is not believed the latter was true, and she went on to say that she knew differently. Today the request before the board is a formal censure of Commissioner Tray Hawkins since he was the chairman at that time, and this is an abuse of the position with a pattern of behavior of selective dissemination of information to manipulate a vote.

Commissioner Griffin asked Commissioner Hawkins why they were not informed. His argument was pumping the brakes on contractors two days before. If they had the information before maybe some of this could have been headed off.

Commissioner Hawkins asked when all FEMA work stopped for the contractors. In meetings with any organization or anybody that has anything directly related to working with Washington County, he asks that Mr. Massey inform the other board members. Communication with other members of the board is prohibited because of the Sunshine Law.

Commissioner Griffin said but in a meeting.

Commissioner Hawkins said the contractor work had been stopped because they had not received the time extensions. It was thought that everyone knew. Mr. Massey delivers information to the board, just as he does now with Chairman Pettis and with the previous chairman.

Commissioner Griffin said he understands that, but his gray area is why it was not passed on in a formal meeting. If Mr. Massey did not do it, why wasn't the board told in a meeting?

Commissioner Hawkins said that he was not aware that County Administrator Massey did not do it.

Commissioner Griffin said that he found out two days before.

Commissioner Hawkins referred to earlier in the meeting when Commissioner Bush questioned the reasons for the work stopping. Benita Crittendon included other private property stuff, such as emails on Territory Road. Territory Road has been a road since he could

remember. There were questions about FEMA money spent on New Jerusalem (a private road). Mr. Evans has the invoice from the gentlemen who had the road paved, which everyone had an opportunity to see. There was a question sent to FEMA about why the ditches were dug. The board does not disseminate where ditches are dug. There are things other than the 1.5 versus 2 inches of asphalt that are in question.

Commissioner Griffin asked why it was not translated to the board.

Commissioner Hawkins said during that time, the question from DEM (FEMA did not speak to them) was that it was a request for more information, which was provided.

Benita Crittendon mentioned Commissioner Hawkins knowing the reimbursements had stopped on September 29.

Commissioner Hawkins said yes it stopped because the time extensions were not signed. They had no clue that it would take FEMA this amount of time. It was a time extension issue and a request for information on the questions that had been asked.

Chairman Pettis spoke on the other issues that were previously mentioned about the roads. An email was received on April 12 from Mrs. Foggy and at that time they were still reviewing items about Territory Road, New Jerusalem Road, and the ditches on Carter Circle and had not made a decision. Contact would be made when a determination is made. Monday was the weekly phone call and no determination had been made by FEMA at that time.

Commissioner Bush said that he had heard FEMA was holding the money and DEM was holding the money. Which one is holding the money?

Chairman Pettis said that is unclear to him as well and he has heard it both ways as well.

Commissioner Bush said if it is DEM, then it is an issue with the governor, and it would likely be concerning to him to know that a state agency was causing a county all these issues without a significant cause. If it is one, advise them so they can move forward, correct it, and get back on track. The governor would want to know that one of his counties is incurring all these interest charges because one of his state agencies is non-responsive. Not that they are not but they do not seem to be when they are trying to figure out the answer to these questions. If it is Washington County causing the problem, let them know so they can fix it. It is not clear what can be done to fix the problem.

Chairman Pettis said that earlier on a letter was written to the governor about this issue, but to his knowledge, there was no response. If the

board wishes, they can follow up and reach out for clarification.

Commissioner Bush suggested doing that and requesting a meeting with the governor's office.

Commissioner Corbin said that he has personally reached out to Congressman Dunn's office, Senator Scott's office, Jay Trumbell's office, and Shane Abbott himself and none of them could give that answer.

Commissioner Hawkins said that he had recently spoken to Kevin Guthrie and Melissa Foggy, who were meeting with FEMA the next day. The county needs to know which way they need to go.

Benita Crittendon said that she would like the discussion on censorship. If something wrong occurs and it is not addressed, it is condoning it and being complicit with it.

Commissioner Griffin asked who was going to be held responsible for not giving them information on time. He was not informed by County Administrator Massey or Chairman Hawkins about what was going on. He found out a couple of days before as he was assuming other board members did when they had the emergency meeting about the time extensions. Somebody must be held accountable, just like the money. Somebody is going to be held accountable other than the taxpayers to get the money back. Some type of action needs to be taken.

Commissioner Corbin said that he found out from County Administrator Massey after the meeting when he questioned why they were looking for the money and he was told. He went on to say that Benita Crittendon is very good with dates, and he is not. That is exactly what he told her; that he did not get that information. He went on to say that he did talk to Mr. Adkison when she mentioned it to him. At that time, he was told by Hosea, that neither of them had a problem with 1.5 inches of asphalt because it had already been approved in two road zones previously. Their problem was that it was passed the 12-month time limit to ask for those changes. When he and the County Administrator had a phone call with FEMA and FDEM he did not know enough at the time to ask questions. They are still designing roads now, therefore a 12-month time from being able to ask for changes was unrealistic. There was no answer or response to it.

Benita Crittendon addressed the board referencing a text message between her and Commissioner Corbin where he replied to her saying, Kevin was the one who told me they were holding the money the day that I called him when you and I spoke, which was October 18.

Commissioner Griffin said that he would like to put in the form of a motion to either put it in Mr. Massey's file to be held responsible for not

getting the information to them or censor Mr. Chairman Hawkins.

Commissioners Hawkins, Bush, and Pettis agreed with it being one or both.

Commissioner Griffin offered a motion to censor former Chairman Hawkins and put a reprimand in County Administrator Massey's file.

Commissioner Bush said as a point of order, he is not sure that can be done. There is censorship that will require a different vote than a reprimand. At the minimum, the motions should be separated.

Commissioner Griffin amended his previous motion and split them into two different motions.

Commissioner Griffin offered a motion to censor former Chairman Hawkins.

The motion failed for lack of a second.

Commissioner Griffin offered a motion to put a reprimand in County Administrator Massey's file for failure to disseminate information.

The motion failed for lack of a second.

- 7.5 Animal Control Resolution – Lynne Abel, Public Safety Director told the board the newly adopted animal control ordinance references a resolution for impoundment fees. Nothing has changed on those fees; however, a resolution is being presented before the board to state the impoundment fees are \$65.00 and quarantine at the shelter is \$150.00.

Commissioner Pettis asked how often the fees increase.

Lynne Abel said it has been years.

They currently have some animals on legal hold. The animal control officers created a space under the barn where the animals could be held, which prevents fees for the animals being held for an extended period. It is clean and the officers take care of them.

Commissioner Griffin offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Corbin, and unanimously carried to approve the resolution presented as 7.5.

- 7.6 Mud Hill Communication Tower Expense Update – Randy Truette, Communications Committee Chair addressed the board on behalf of the Communications Committee. A lightning strike damaged the light at the top of the Mud Hill Tower. The light was old, and the parts had become

more expensive and harder to buy. The committee voted to replace it with an updated LED light, which will last longer and will not require as much repair. The total cost for replacement was \$16,000.00, however, they filed an insurance claim and received \$8,173.34. Approval is requested to spend the remaining part of the \$16,000.00.

Commissioner Hawkins asked if there was a grounding issue.

Randy Truette said they had the communications staff as well as a tower crew check the grounds on everything. The new tower on Holmes Valley was also struck by lightning, which will cost \$460.79 to repair.

Commissioner Bush offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Hawkins to authorize the Communications Committee to pay for the necessary repairs for the two communication towers that were struck by lightning.

Randy Truette asked if they could go ahead and pay for repairs in an emergency.

Commissioner Hawkins said that it is under Mr. Massey's spending limit. If it is something protecting life or property, then what is needed should be done to fix it.

Commissioner Bush said the board has approved the communication expenditures in the past. It is not to say that is the way it needs to be.

Commissioner Hawkins said that he did not understand it.

Deputy Clerk Brantley said that she believes that it is included in the resolution.

Chairman Pettis clarified the motion to make the necessary repairs. The resolution will be reviewed to see what they need to do to address an emergency.

The motion carried unanimously.

Break

- 7.7 Library Position – Renae Rountree, Library Director told the board that she would like to hire a temporary 20-hour library page from May – July for Summer Read at the Vernon location. The Vernon location provides food during the summer through the USDA Summer Feeding Program. During the school year, they have been seeing about 40 kids per week for the program, which is expected to double during the summer. The library will receive an extra \$30,485.00 from the state, which is more than enough to cover the position.

More adults are visiting the library for help with things, such as their electronics. Chipley and Sunny Hills both have adult library clubs. There is no job description for an employee who does adult services, however, there is currently an employee partly doing that job.

Wendy White, Human Resources said the job description will take care of the proper job classification for the employee that is working outside of their current job description. It will be the same class code.

Commissioner Bush offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Corbin, and unanimously carried to add a temporary 20-hour page at the Vernon Library.

Commissioner Bush offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Griffin, and unanimously carried to approve a clarification of a position description to provide an adult instructor at the Chipley Library.

7.8 Career Firefighter Job Description, Handbook Updates, and Pay Plan – Wendy White, Human Resources Director addressed the board about taking the next step in implementing the Career Firefighter position. 2023 – 2024 budget cycle the board approved three firefighter positions. The facility where they will be housed is almost complete. Four documents will be presented before the board for approval to ensure they are compliant and competitive. Mr. Leach, county staff, counsel, and the clerk's team were all involved.

- Career Firefighter Job Description – It is a new position; therefore, it is a job description. The goal is to hire three full-time career firefighters. This sets up the general statement of the job, roles and responsibilities, minimum qualifications, physical demands, knowledge, skills, and abilities needed, as well as the Fair Labor Standards Act classification and the FRS Standard.
- Handbook Update – Per Mr. Leach this will extend the probationary period to 1 year versus the 6-month period that is listed now. This is only for the Career Firefighter position. The reason is that they work a lot less time in a month which is less time to evaluate their skills and abilities.

Annual Hours – The Career Firefighters are under the 2,990 annual hours per year schedule versus the 2,080 hours. They are eligible for overtime after working 106 hours in 14 days. Their schedule is 106 hours per pay period straight time and 6 hours of overtime that is built into their bi-weekly schedule.

Holiday Pay – This update is to account for when they work on a holiday as well as compensation for leave time used on a holiday.

- Pay Plan for Career Firefighter Position – This will stand alone from the normal pay plan because it is a different yearly schedule of 2,990 hours. This will set up a minimum, midpoint, and maximum hourly starting range for firefighter staff and account for the 106 hours of regular pay and 6 hours of overtime per pay period.
- SWAP Time Procedure – This is common in the firefighter realm, which allows them to swap time for time worked that is approved by the fire coordinator.

A motion is requested to approve the job description for the career firefighter, handbook updates, pay plan for the career firefighter position, and the SWAP time procedure update to the standard operating guideline.

Commissioner Hawkins offered this motion, seconded by Commissioner Corbin.

James Brooks addressed the board saying that he is not against career firefighters, or any emergency person being paid well. Can the county afford this? Is the county headed toward a new tax? Will the public be given input before taxes for fire services are proposed or come about? How close is the county to those taxes?

Chairman Pettis said there is already a line in the budget for the positions, which will be a burden on the commission to budget those funds. At this time, there has been no discussion about a new tax, assessments, or fire assessment fees, however, this is not to say that it will never happen. If it is brought up, the decision should be made by the citizens. If the need arises, it should be done as a referendum.

Veronica Jones asked where the three firefighters would be stationed. She lives about ½ a mile from the Vernon station, and they have nothing over there and there is hardly ever anybody in that station. There were three structure fires out there yesterday and when she passed at 5:00 p.m. there was nobody in the building.

Commissioner Hawkins said that he passed a truck yesterday leaving Vernon's station around 12:30 p.m.

Chairman Pettis said the intention is for the SAFER Grant guys to be moved around as needed. The plan is to begin at Sunny Hills Fire Department and work from there.

Larry Zezula addressed the board about them looking at gap profits and depreciation to budget in new things like the firehouses that have depreciation for gap profit on the end game of the budget.

Commissioner Hawkins said that he received many calls about a tax being discussed today. There is no tax being discussed today.

Chairman Pettis said the motion today is strictly to update the handbook, policies, and job description, no tax.

Commissioner Bush addressed Wendy White, Human Resources about the SWAP part mentioning FF 2, and FF 1 being an equal swap. Based on experience those two are not equivalent.

Wendy White, Human Resources said that it is not the qualifications of the firefighter. That description is included to reference individual employees.

Justin Leach confirmed that is correct. All firefighters will have the same qualifications.

Commissioner Bush suggested that the description be changed, for example to FF A, and FF B. Qualifications are listed as FF 1 and FF 2.

Commissioner Hawkins amended his motion to update FF 1 and 2 to FF A and FF B.

James Brooks said they must mention things in public because they are not brought up to the public by the commission. They needed transparency. They intend to advocate and get out ahead of what is going to take place. It is not bad reporting. It is good reporting.

Chairman Pettis asked what in the agenda items led everyone to believe there was a tax imposed.

James Brooks said because people are being hired. It is in the rumor mill all over the county. They are bringing attention to it and getting out ahead of it.

Benita Crittendon said the same issue was brought to her attention. An MSTU Tax is included in the 5-year plan, which is a county document. This is not to say that she is against paid firefighters. This is not to say that she is for or against an MSTU Tax. With the situation the county is currently in, it can be understood why the citizens would say not to speak to them about a tax. It is concerning that oversight has been lacking which has resulted in what has occurred in the county. There has been a lack of oversight in earlier SAFER Grants. It is not that people are necessarily against a paid firefighter department. They do not have confidence in the administration, board, and the people in the county who are tasked with oversight to

make sure the money is put where it should be.

Commissioner Bush said when he was a part of the fire department 35 -40 years ago, an MSTU tax was mentioned then, and it has never come to fruition. It has always been out there.

The motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Pettis said he intends to be open with the community and citizens if there is a tax decision discussed.

- 7.9 Circle P Enterprises, LLC DBA Legendary Lawn Maintenance Contract Renewal Discussion – David Pettis, Chairman said there was a discussion at the workshop to waive their procurement policy and extend this contract for 1-year. The county is pleased with the services and the contractor is happy to continue the work. EMS reached out for quotes for the EMS Stations in Wausau and Vernon, which is \$4,085.00 for 1 year.

Confirmation was received from the county attorney that the added services can be added to the existing contract, as well as waiving the procurement policy.

Commissioner Hawkins offered a motion to move forward with Circle P dba Legendary Lawn and Maintenance with the addition of the Wausau and Vernon EMS contract, as well as waiving any requirement of the procurement policy that is in conflict.

*** This item unintentionally lacked a second. It will be addressed next month.*

- 7.10 Request for Approval of Small County Consolidated Solid Waste Management Grant Application – Candace Thames, Grants requested approval to apply to renew the recycling grant.

Commissioner Griffin offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Corbin, and unanimously carried to approve applying for the renewal of the Small County Consolidated Solid Waste Management Grant.

- 7.11 King Road over Gum Creek Bridge SCOP Task Order – Candace Thames, Grants requested approval for the task order for Dewberry to provide and design professional services to complete the project for King Road over Gum Creek Bridge.

Commissioner Hawkins offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Corbin, and unanimously carried to approve the task order for Dewberry for King Road over Gum Creek Bridge.

8. FEMA COORDINATOR

- 8.1 FEMA Update – Kevan Parker addressed the board.
The Hazard Mitigation Buyout Program for Hurricane Michael, the cost share from the Department of Commerce amendment 1 has been received for the Historical Properties Contract and Standard Properties Contract for the name change from the Department of Economic Opportunity to the Department of Commerce.

Chairman Pettis confirmed this is a text change for the name change at the state level.

Commissioner Hawkins offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Corbin, and unanimously carried to approve amendment 1 for the Historical Properties Contract and Standard Properties Contract for the name change at the state level from the Department of Economic Opportunity to the Department of Commerce.

Hurricane Sally Roads – It was discussed last month to put the roads out for bid to get them costed, so FEMA could provide a reimbursement cost. The plan was to wait and see what FEMA was going to do with Hurricane Michael before doing anything on Hurricane Sally, which was explained to FEMA after the last meeting. They said they would give an additional month. This week they have said to put it out for bid, or they are going to go with their prices. Wheeler Emergency Management believes their cost is around 50% lower than theirs.

Commissioner Bush said it could be put out for bid and not awarded.

Commissioner Corbin said it cost to put it out for bid. They work from reimbursements, and it is concerning that the money is not there to front the projects. Until there is a resolution about Hurricane Michael, he does not see how they can. Would there be money to start the project? He went on to say he does not want to stop the project but does not see how something new could be started.

Kevan Parker said that it could be done through advances, the same as Worley Road.

Commissioner Corbin expressed concern about awarding a project to a contractor and stopping it because the advances did not come in.

Commissioner Griffin said he does not believe they should start any other projects on Hurricane Sally until they receive reimbursements for Hurricane Michael.

Commissioner Corbin requested Kevan Parker ask again if they would give them more time.

Kevan Parker responded by saying there was a call scheduled on Monday,

however, he would try to speak to Angela before the call.

9. MSBU ADVISORY COMMITTEE UPDATE

- 9.1 ITB 2024-02 Sunny Hills Mowing – Steve Healis said they received four bid packages, which were opened last Thursday at 3:00 p.m. at the county annex. The recommendation of the MSBU Committee is to award the mowing contract to Sweet Bay Landscape.

Commissioner Griffin offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Hawkins, and unanimously carried to award the contract for Sunny Hills mowing to Sweet Bay Landscape.

10. PUBLIC WORKS – None

11. ENGINEERING PROJECTS UPDATE – Commissioner Hawkins said that he had received word that Cliff was waiting for direction on Culpepper Landing, however, he thought the board had given direction to move forward with a 10 x 20 instead of a 10 x 10. The paperwork received shows a 10 x 10. Could someone reach out to Cliff or the contact who is over this and have a price provided to the board for the 10 x 20?

Candace will follow up on this.

12. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR – Commissioner Griffin asked for an update on Wildstar’s tower that is on the ground in Orange Hill.

Commissioner Corbin said it was his understanding that they were waiting on the second round for which they were awarded \$2.5 million. The first round is complete.

13. CLERK

- 13.1 March Vouchers Totaling \$3,474,167.12

14. COUNTY ATTORNEY – Attorney Fuqua updated the board. In reference to the boat landing resolution case, Mr. Green has been sick, but County Attorney Milton is still working to see if they can waive the frivolous fees sanction. In the Peel case, there was a motion to dismiss filed yesterday, and 57.105 Motion for Frivolous Action was filed in that case also, meaning the case does not have legal or factual merit. If the county prevails, the county or insurance carrier will receive the attorney’s fees back for defending it.

Chairman Pettis reminded everyone that via the county’s website, the meeting live streams are available and are archived as well.

15. ADJOURN