



MINUTES
WASHINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
BOARD WORKSHOP
Tuesday, April 8, 2025, 10:00 AM, Commission Board Room
1331 South Blvd., Chipley, FL 32428

DISTRICT 1	DISTRICT 2	DISTRICT 3	DISTRICT 4	DISTRICT 5
Ashlynn Marquez	David Pettis Jr. Chairman	Joey Brock	Wesley Griffin	David Corbin Vice-Chairman

1. PROCLAMATION

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

2. AGENDA ITEMS

Engineer - Jonathan Sims, Dewberry, was moved to be heard after agenda items 2.4.

- 2.1 Introduction of Charles Vannatter, Building Official-Jeff Massey, County Administrator
Charles Vannatter, Building Official, introduced himself.
- 2.2 Fire Assistance Grant Award Approval- Justin Barron, Fire Services
The 50/50 grant has been approved by the Volunteer Assistance Fire Program. The county's cost associated with the purchase is \$4,781.50 in addition to shipping. Approval to buy a washer and dryer, which can wash bumper gear. The equipment will be used by multiple fire departments.
This item will be listed on the consent agenda.

- 2.3 D0303 Washington County Feasibility Study Grant- Candace Thames, Grants/Procurement Specialists
Approval is requested to apply for grant D0303 through the Department of Commerce. The grant is for \$67,500.00, which will be used to conduct a feasibility study for the property behind Burger King. Dewberry Engineers helped with the grant and will be providing a task order for approval at the next meeting.

This item will be listed on the consent agenda.

- 2.4 DOGE Discussion - Wesley Griffin, County Commissioner
Washington County should be proactive in letting DOGE know they are willing participants.

Clerk Bell informed the board that all 67 counties received a letter from DOGE in March, which had five questions. None of the questions were relevant to the office's records. The response has been submitted.

Voluntary opt-in to the DOGE Review Resolution will be included on the consent agenda.

3. FEMA COORDINATOR

Mason Garrett addressed the board on the following items.

-Baker Donelson intends to have a draft for the appeal on the roads. Once it is received, it will be emailed to the commissioners. If there is any concern, County Attorney Milton can set up a meeting with Wendy Huff, Baker Donelson. The last day to file the appeal is the 14th.

-Hurricane Michael - \$2.7 million is pending in FLAIR, \$1 million should follow, and there is around \$1.5 million in the validation step.

- 14 of the 17 Hurricane Sally Road has been completed by the Public Works Department. \$55,000.00 will be released toward that.

-Helene Project which is around \$200,000.00 is at CRC Development.

-The second appeal for the debris project was lost, which is around \$4.5 million. The project was for non-navigable waterways. There is no decision before the board to take right now. At this time, it is unknown how the state will move forward. There has not been any determination

on how the funds would be paid back. Holding the funds from a future event has been spoken of.

4. MSBU ADVISORY COMMITTEE UPDATE

Gary Hartman, MSBU Committee member, informed the board that there is an MSBU workshop tomorrow at 6:00 p.m. at the community center.

Scott Parrish introduced himself.

County Attorney Milton will have prepared the Preliminary Rate Resolution for the annual 5% increase for Sunny Hills, which will be listed on the consent agenda. The ordinance allows for a 5% increase annually over 10 years.

5. PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR

- 5.1 Purchase of 2025 Ford F450 - Trey Barbee addressed the board.

Approval to purchase a 2025 Ford F-450 for \$69,482.00 from cash carried forward will be listed on the consent agenda. The truck will free up a dump truck.

- 5.2 Purchase of Rolls-Rite Gooseneck Trailer

Approval to purchase a trailer for \$25,150.00 from Rolls-Rite will be listed on the consent agenda, which will be funded by cash carried forward.

The above will replace a trailer, which will be listed on the consent agenda for approval for surplus.

6. PARKS UPDATE

- 6.1 Purchase Kubota Tractor - George Swauger addressed the board.

Approval to purchase a tractor with a bucket, gravel, and mower for \$36,424.00 from Parish Tractor. This item will be listed on the consent agenda.

6.2 Purchase 2024 Chevrolet Express Passenger Van

Approval to purchase a 2024 van for \$41,793.00 will be listed on the consent agenda. The equipment will be funded 50% by the Parks and Recreation Budget and 50% by the Public Works Department's cash carried forward.

Project Updates

- The work at Blue Lake and Wilder Park is progressing.
- ServPro addressed the issues in the restroom at Sunny Hills. The work at Sunny Hills will follow the work at Blue Lake and Wilder Park.

7. ENGINEERING PROJECTS UPDATE

Jonathan Sims, Dewberry Project Manager, requested approval of Roberts and Roberts' low bid of \$754,932.00 for the Sunny Hills Paving Project.

This item will be listed on the consent agenda.

8. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Jeff Massey updated the board.

- 2025 -2026 Budget process will begin soon.

9. CLERK

None

10. COUNTY ATTORNEY - Attorney Milton was present.

None

11. OTHER BUSINESS

- FPL Light Poles - The inconsistency of how the new light poles have been put up is a maintenance concern. Some of them are close to the road.

County Administrator Massey will contact FPL regarding the repositioning of the new poles and try to have an FPL representative on the next agenda.

- City of Vernon County Assistance - The county paved Church Street years prior, and there is 7/10 of a mile that needs to be addressed. They understand that if the county is involved, the mill will be removed, and it will be a dirt road. The city board unanimously approved for the county to fix the road.

Concern was expressed about who will be responsible for maintaining the road, as well as setting a precedent if approved.

Assisting the City of Vernon with maintaining the 7/10 of a mile will be listed on the regular agenda.

- Tree Service - A tree service hired by the county last year cut a tree that was on private property in Vernon. The property owners would like the debris removed and another pecan tree planted, which should not be a seedling.

The consensus of the board is for County Administrator Massey to take care of this, which should be within his spending discretion.

12. ADJOURN