



MINUTES
WASHINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
BOARD WORKSHOP
Thursday, July 10, 2025, 9:00 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

Chairman Pettis said that he and County Administrator Massey would be leaving the meeting around 10:00 a.m. to attend a meeting which was requested by Congressman Dunn's office in Panama City regarding the issues with FEMA.

1.3 Pledge

2. AGENDA ITEMS

2.1 EMS Updates -Randy Truette, EMS Director

- Over twenty-five community events/outreach this year.
- Monthly In-House Trainings for staff and outside agencies.
- Capital improvements.
- A new ambulance has been added.
- Advanced IV pumps have been installed on each truck.
- THE CAD systems have been integrated into the ambulances, which allow for real-time information from dispatch.
- Extrication equipment has been purchased.
- A grant was received for a CMAC.

- EMS continues to seek grants, expand its relationships, and work closely with other entities.
- The Local EMS Chief Group, which consists of different counties, meets quarterly.
- EMS has been working on an aircraft for Washington County at no cost to the county. The aircraft would also respond to Calhoun and Gulf Counties.
- Outreach and training with other hospitals.
- FY 21/22 - 3,600 calls, 22/23 - 3,900 calls, 23/24 - 4,600 calls and YTD - 4,200.

Sheriff Crews Update

- FY 20/21 - CAD - over 22,600, 21/22 - just below 25,000, 22/23 - over 29,000, and 23/24 - just below 28,000.
- 20/21 - 911 Calls - over 11,000, 21/22 - data is not available, 22/23 - over 11,000, and 23/24 - over 8,000.
- Fentanyl exercise, which the Washington County Prison took part in. An active assailant drill was done at the school. Both included Washington County Emergency Management.
- A roundtable meeting is scheduled with branches of emergency services to begin training and strategies regarding hurricane preparedness and the community's needs.

2.2 Building Department Job Description and Pay Plan Update-Aaron Dudley, Human Resources Specialist

Request for approval to add the building inspector job title/description to the pay plan/pay grade 110. This item will be added to the consent agenda.

2.3 Insurance Renewal Discussion-Aaron Dudley, Human Resources Specialist, and Ashlynn Marquez, Commissioner

Aaron Dudley spoke on what it means for the county to be self-insured. The county has been part of a consortium with Benecon for 7 years. Due to a couple of high claim years, the county is facing an increase. The county's contribution for the employee or the plan can be adjusted or both. Around

\$377,000.00 is available in surplus funds to apply toward the increase.

Options were discussed, with the board agreeing to add this item to the regular agenda.

Updates - County Administrator Massey

Commissioner Brock requested an update on the asphalt plant. He went on to say there is also an issue with houseboats in the county, which the county needs to set restrictions on.

County Administrator Massey informed the board that Hunter Shaw's information has been passed along to the new Economic Development Director, Tony Daniels, who has reached out to him.

County Administrator Massey informed the board that he has spoken with Water Management and FWC. The houseboats are considered floating structures, which do not have to have numbers. A course of action will be brought before the board after multi-agencies have met on the issue.

Commissioner Brock spoke on Washington and Holmes County combining the funds they are paying for animal control services and using them toward building a multicounty animal control facility together. The care of the animals was a concern that was expressed.

Commissioner Brock informed the board that he has received multiple calls about the roads in district 1. He suggested meeting with the previous employee and discussing training the employee.

Chairman Pettis and County Administrator left the meeting at this point.

Commissioner Marquez responded that a plan has been put in place to assist with the area.

2.4 New Process for Subdivision Approval-Clay Milton, County Attorney

A statute has been revised to direct that the county appoints a designee for the plat approval process. A resolution that appoints the county manager as the designee has been provided for review. This item will be listed on the regular agenda.

2.5 Lobbyist Discussion-Ashlynn Marquez, Commissioner
Commissioner Marquez suggested the county put out an RFQ for a lobbyist. This item will be listed on the regular agenda.

2.6 Emergency Management Discussion-Clay Milton
Some of the items listed as major issues are listed below.

- Approval of PWs if a disaster occurs. Lynne Abel, EOC Director, suggested that this responsibility should belong to the county staff/county manager.
- Disaster recovery is under the authority of the BOCC, as well as activating all contracts.
- Planning would shift to the sheriff's office.
- Road closures would fall under the road department.
- Budget needs to be discussed.
- Annual asset inventory.
- The grant side will be managed by the Sheriff's Office.
- Emergency Management Plan

The resolution will be listed on the regular agenda.

2.9 Public Participation Policy-David Corbin, Vice-Chairman
(Originally listed under David Pettis, Chairman)
A discussion was held on this item, which will be listed on the regular agenda next week.

3. FEMA COORDINATOR

Mason Garrett updated the board.

- Hurricane Helene is fully obligated. A recovery transition meeting is scheduled for the 15th.
- COVID is at the closeout stage. The two projects totaled around \$1 million.
- Hurricane Sally is about two hundred loads away from being complete. The due date is September 23.

- Hurricane Michael Buyout - Chairman Pettis signing a Voluntary Participation form was needed before the release of \$921,000.00.
- Buyout Project 30 - \$239,000.00 - A couple of previous owners need to sign Voluntary Participation forms before the funds can be released.
- Generators - The plan is to be completed by December.
- Headwall Mitigation - Work that was done by Commissioner Griffin before he was a commissioner needs to have locations clarified. Once that is done \$617,000.00 can be released.
- Loan Interest Project - It has been increased by \$175,000.00.
- Road Project RFR - American Sand invoice for \$721,931.08 has been recently approved for reimbursement. There is an added \$186,000.00 due to the county.

3.1 Appeal Discussion

- Appeal Determination - Charles Schexnaildre told the board that the entire \$55.9 million was denied, even though they said it was a partial approval. They acknowledge that the pavement added as a mitigation proposal by the county did not cause an issue with their deadline for changes. It allows for the \$23 million that they were going to approve for the sod cost in the original mitigation proposal.

The options are to proceed with arbitration or not, or to re-appeal. To get anything done, arbitration is necessary.

This item will be listed on the regular agenda.

4. **BUILDING OFFICIAL**

5. **MSBU ADVISORY COMMITTEE UPDATE**

Gary Hartman, MSBU Advisory Board, informed the board that FPL has offered to replace all the old streetlights in Sunny Hills with LED lights at no cost. It will be all the ones that have not been done.

This item will be presented for approval via resolution.

6. **PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR** – Trey Barbee, Public Works Director

In response to the grading concern expressed earlier in the meeting. District 1 - There was a plan in place to hire a new employee to shadow the employee who was retiring; however, the employee declined the job offer a week before the employee retired, and there was not enough time to hire another employee before the current employee at that time retired.

7. PARKS UPDATE

8. ENGINEERING PROJECTS UPDATE

9. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

10. CLERK

Deputy Clerk Brantley informed the board that approval of the tentative millage rate is due back to the property appraiser by August 4. If the board would like more time, a special meeting can be held on July 29/30. The tentative hearing dates are September 15 and September 22. This item will be listed on the regular agenda.

11. COUNTY ATTORNEY

11.1 Communication Protocol for Planning Activities

Clay Milton presented a resolution before the board about the communication protocol for planning activities. The resolution says that the ex parte is allowable; however, if it occurs, it must be disclosed. This is strictly related to planning type discussions/activities.

Attorney Milton informed the board that they advise against it.

This item will be listed on the regular agenda.

12. OTHER BUSINESS

13. ADJOURN