



MINUTES
WASHINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
FINAL BUDGET HEARING
Monday, September 22, 2025, 5:05 PM, 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
- 1.3 Pledge

2. PUBLIC HEARING

1. Fiscal Year 25/26 Final Millage Rate and Final Budget

Chairman Pettis Statement – The Washington County Board of County Commissioners' millage rate to be levied remains at 8.50, which is 7.80 percent above the rolled-back rate of 7.8847. The reason ad valorem tax revenues are increasing is that the gross taxable value for operating purposes for this fiscal year is \$1,489,953,620.00 compared to \$1,343,651,067.00 for the previous fiscal year.

This meeting was advertised via the Washington County News on September 17, 2025.

Benita Crittendon questioned where the \$2.9M listed on page 2 came from and if it is being used to balance the 2025 - 2026 budget.

Chairman Pettis responded that the funds were ARPA Funds that were used throughout the 2024 - 2025 budget to replenish general fund expenses.

Benita Crittendon responded that the cash carried forward account still had a balance of \$2.9M as of Septembers report. Are the funds planned to be used in the next two weeks? It looks like the funds are being used in the proposed budget with a projected balance of \$354,000.00 at the end of the next budget year.

Chairman Pettis responded that \$354,000.00 was transferred from land sales to balance the 2025 – 2026 budget.

Deputy Clerk Brantley said that line item shows what the budget was at the beginning of the year. Finance does not typically charge an expense to a revenue. It would be charged at an expense. It is a revenue total. You may see it increasing.

Benita Crittendon said that it shows 0% used. It is ARPA money. The ARPA money does not show any movement from the cash carried forward account. ARPA money is not supposed to be in a cash carried forward account. It should be kept separate until it is used.

Clerk Bell responded that it was no longer ARPA money when it replenished the general fund for government salaries, which was approved by the board via resolution.

Benita Crittendon suggested that a forensic audit of Washington County be considered. If a commissioner feels like they have not received a full answer to something questioned, then the vote should reflect that for individual protection.

3. **ADOPT THE AGENDA**

Agenda Addition

5.4 - County-wide Burn ban - Justin Barron, County Fire Coordinator

Motion to approve the agenda.

Moved by: David Corbin

Seconded by: Ashlynn Marquez

Aye David Corbin, David Pettis Jr., Ashlynn Marquez, and Joey Brock

Carried 4-0

4. **NON-AGENDA AUDIENCE/PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

5. **AGENDA ITEMS**

5.1 2025 – 2026 Final Millage Rate Resolution – 8.50 (Separate votes are required for items 1-3.)

A resolution by the Washington County Board of County Commissioners of Washington County, Florida adopting the final levying of ad valorem taxes for Washington County for Fiscal Year 2025 - 2026 providing for an effective date.

Motion to approve the 2025 - 2026 millage of 8.5 by roll call vote.

Moved by: Ashlynn Marquez

Seconded by: David Corbin

Aye David Corbin, David Pettis Jr., Ashlynn Marquez, and Joey Brock

Carried 4-0

5.2 2025 – 2026 Final Fiscal Year Budget Resolution

A resolution from the Washington County Board of County Commissioners of Washington County, Florida adopting the final budget for fiscal year 2025 - 2026 providing for an effective date.

Motion to approve the 2025 -2026 budget by roll call vote.

Moved by: Ashlynn Marquez

Seconded by: David Corbin

Aye David Corbin, David Pettis Jr., Ashlynn Marquez, and Joey Brock

Carried 4-0

5.3 2025 – 2026 Final MSBU Budget Resolution

A resolution of the Washington County, Florida County Commissioners relating to the Sunny Hills Oak Hills Municipal Services Benefit Unit adopting the final budget for fiscal year 2025 -2026 providing for an effective date.

Motion to approve the 2025 - 2026 MSBU Budget by roll call vote.

Moved by: David Corbin

Seconded by: Ashlynn Marquez

Aye David Corbin, David Pettis Jr., Ashlynn Marquez, and Joey Brock

Carried 4-0

5.4 County Wide Burn Ban (Adoption of Emergency Order 25-01) - Justin Barron, Fire Services Coordinator

Justin Barron requested a county wide burn ban be approved due to the dry conditions, high winds, and temperature.

Motion to approve of the burn ban resolution effective at once and authorize Chairman Pettis to sign it.

Moved by: Joey Brock

Seconded by: David Corbin

Aye

David Corbin, David Pettis Jr., Ashlynn
Marquez, and Joey Brock

Carried 4-0

6. ADJOURN

Motion to Adjourn

Moved by: Ashlynn Marquez

Seconded by: Joey Brock

Aye

David Corbin, David Pettis Jr., Ashlynn
Marquez, and Joey Brock

Carried 4-0