



MINUTES
WASHINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
BOARD WORKSHOP
Thursday, February 12, 2026, 9:00 AM, Commission Board
Room
1331 South Blvd., Chipley, FL 32428

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

1. PROCLAMATION

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

2. AGENDA ITEMS

- 2.1 Tri-County Airport Authority Update-Danny Exum, Grant Coordinator

An update of the airport was provided, with some of the highlights as follows:

- According to a study conducted by the State of Florida four years ago, the airport was generating over \$5M per year in economic impact for the local economy.
- Per FAA figures, the airport averages seventy-eight operations and airport daily, with many being military.

A historical overview was also provided. The Second Annual Tri-County Economic meeting will be held on April 16, at 5:30 p.m. at the airport. The keynote speaker will be Brad Kimbro.

2.2 America 250 Grant- Revolution Road Project Bid Award-
Heather Lopez, TDC Director
This item was requested to be postponed until next week due to a lack of quorum.

2.3 Approval to Accept Second Amendment for Broadband Network, SOM1101-Carol Underwood / Keith Pegues, Wildstar
Carol Underwood said the first one was done on December 29, 2020, and amended on October 20, 2022. It is in conjunction with the Florida Broadband Opportunity Program. Phases I and II are complete. The amendment is to align the agreement milestones with the grant-funded construction phase. This phase of the project is to be completed by September 30, 2026. Of the 784 eligible locations, 189 have been completed. The number of residents subscribed to Wildstar is 399. Six towers have been installed.

Keith Pegues added that they are currently working on the Gainey tower, which will leave five more towers to complete the grant. They have encountered issues finding volunteers to host tower sites. The areas are defined by the eligible locations that the BBC put forth. The State has approved and requested the contract.

This item will be listed on the consent agenda.

2.4 RFQ 2025-01 Engineering, Design, and CEI Continuing Services Contract-David Pettis, Jr., Chairman
The commissioners disclosed their scoring for categories 1 – 4. This item will be discussed and voted on at the next meeting.

Rated categories 1 - 4

District 1

Columbia Engineering - 5, 4, 4, 4

Gortemoller Engineering Inc. - 4, 3, 5, 4
Infrastructure - 4, 4, 3, 4
Inovia Consulting Group - 3, 3, 3, 2
Neel-Schaffer - 4, 4, 3, 2
Metric - 5, 5, 4, 5
Momentum Engineering Group - 5, 3, 4, 3
Panhandle Engineering Group - 5, 5, 5, 5
Short Elliott - 3, 3, 3, 2
Smith Seckman Reid - 3, 4, 2, 3
Three Notch Group - 3, 4, 3, 2

District 2

Columbia Engineering - 4, 4, 4, 4
Gortemoller Engineering Inc. - 5, 5, 4, 5
Infrastructure Consulting and Engineering - 5, 5, 3, 4
Inovia Consulting - 5, 5, 4, 5
Metric Engineering - 5, 5, 5, 5
Momentum Engineering Group - 5, 5, 5, and 5
Neel-Schaffer - 4, 5, 3, 4
Panhandle Engineering Group - 5, 5, 5, 5
Short Elliott Hendrickson - 4, 4, 4, 4
Smith Seckman Reid - 3, 5, 3, 5
Three Notch Group - 5, 4, 4, 5

District 3

Columbia Engineering - 4, 3, 4, 3
Gortemoller Engineering Inc. - 4, 4, 3, 3
Infrastructure Consulting and Engineering - 3, 3, 3, 3

Inovia Consulting - 4, 4, 4, 3
Metric Engineering - 4, 4, 4, 4
Momentum Engineering Group - 3, 3, 3, 3
Neel-Schaffer - 3, 4, 3, 3
Panhandle Engineering Group - 4, 5, 4, 4
Short Elliott Hendrickson - 3, 4, 4, 3
Smith Seckman Reid - 3, 4, 3, 4
Three Notch Group - 3, 3, 3, 3

District 4

Columbia Engineering - 2, 2, 2, 2
Gortemoller Engineering Inc. - 2, 2, 2, 2
Infrastructure Consulting and Engineering - 2, 3, 2, 2
Inovia Consulting - 2, 2, 2, 2
Metric Engineering - 4, 5, 3, 4
Momentum Engineering Group - 3, 3, 3, 3
Neel-Schaffer - 3, 3, 3, 3
Panhandle Engineering Group - 5, 4, 5, 5
Short Elliott Hendrickson - 3, 3, 3, 3
Smith Seckman Reid - 3, 3, 3, 3
Three Notch Group - 3, 3, 3, 3

District 5

Columbia Engineering - 4, 5, 3, 4
Gortemoller Engineering Inc. - 4, 5, 4, 5
Infrastructure Consulting and Engineering - 4, 4, 3, 3
Inovia Consulting - 4, 3, 4, 4

Metric Engineering - 5, 5, 5, 4
Momentum Engineering Group - 3, 4, 4, 3
Neel-Schaffer -4, 5, 4, 4
Panhandle Engineering Group - 4, 4, 5, 5
Short Elliott Hendrickson - 3, 4, 3, 3
Smith Seckman Reid - 4, 4, 3, 4
Three Notch Group - 4, 4, 4, 4

Totals

Columbia Engineering - 1,775
Gortemoller Engineering Inc. - 1,875
Infrastructure Consulting and Engineering - 1,675
Inovia Consulting - 1,700
Metric Engineering - 2,250
Momentum Engineering Group - 1,825
Neel-Schaffer - 1,775
Panhandle Engineering Group - 2,350
Short Elliott Hendrickson -1,650
Smith Seckman Reid - 1,725
Three Notch Group - 1,750

This item will be on the regular agenda next week.

3. FEMA COORDINATOR

3.1 Recycling Discussion - Mason Garrett

The interior of the recycling center needs to have ceiling tiles replaced, sheetrock, and roof work. There is \$65,140.00 in addition to the insurance payment of \$18,208.00, of which some has been spent.

3.2 Annex Discussion

There is \$49,940.54 that was obligated to fix ceiling tiles and 25% of the roof. The deductible was not met; therefore, FEMA funded the entire project. It can be fixed, or the money can be given back. A one-year extension has been requested for the recycling center and the annex.

3.3 Additional Update

- Hurricane Helene - \$208,000.00 was received.
- 101 days since the hearing, and an arbitration decision has not been made.
- There is a change order for the generator project for public works for a reduction of \$1,000.00.

After other information is compiled, items 3.1 and 3.2 will be brought back before the board.

4. **BUILDING OFFICIAL**

Charles Vannatter informed the board that he had given the flood and fire ordinances to the attorney for adoption. The updated ordinances provide a clear path for his duties and responsibilities.

Agenda Item 11.1 - Attorney Fuqua said the flood ordinance is mainly updated terminology from FEMA.

Agenda Item 11.2 - The fire ordinance is things they did not have in that section of the municipal code. The building official and fire coordinator were involved in the updates.

Agenda items 11.1 and 11.2 will be listed on the consent agenda for approval to advertise.

5. **MSBU ADVISORY COMMITTEE UPDATE**

6. **PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR**

7. PARKS UPDATE

8. ENGINEERING PROJECTS UPDATE

- 8.1 CR 280 Douglas Ferry Road Improvements (SCRAP) - Resolution Adopting Supplemental Agreement to Existing Agreement No. G3148- Brent Melvin, DHM Melvin Engineering

The resolution was requested by the Department of Transportation. This item will be added to the consent agenda.

The project is around 58% complete. A completion date is scheduled for April 24. The contractor encountered issues with a portion of the outside of the pavement lacking adequate base when it was previously paved, causing rapid deterioration. The contractor is having to cut that out and level. Most of the drainage work is done.

Clayton Road – A grant was previously received for the design of Clayton Road from the county line to Orange Hill Road. The plans are at 90%.

The work at Hunter Parks continues to progress and should be ready in a few weeks.

- 8.2 Resolution Approving Application to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Florida Boating Improvements Program-GAP POND-Tommy Johns, Transportation Project Manager - Alday-Howell - This item will be on the consent agenda.

The following improvements have been identified.

- Rehabilitation of the boat ramp.
- Need for designated ADA-compliant boat trailer parking with proximity to the landing.

- Restroom building needs to be updated.

9. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

County Administrator Fleener

9.1 Website Redesign and Maintenance

The vendors were contacted to clarify their bids, which have been provided to the board for review.

If the board would like to keep the website as it is, the low bid would be the option. If the board would like a redesign/update in addition to the second bid is the best option.

This item will be listed on the regular agenda.

10. CLERK

Clerk Bell

10.1 January Vouchers Totaling \$3,616,298.96

11. COUNTY ATTORNEY

11.1 Fire Code Ordinances – This item was addressed earlier in the meeting.

11.2 Flood Ordinances – This item was addressed earlier in the meeting.

12. OTHER BUSINESS

Commissioner Brock brought up a discussion regarding animal control, suggesting that he would like the county to have a shelter. The current

facility does not try to adopt out. The issue can be discussed with neighboring counties.

Commissioner Pettis added that he is not opposed to seeking a solution; however, the board needs to understand that if they have an animal shelter, it is 100% their responsibility.

Commissioner Marquez sought verification that there must be a vet on staff, and it cannot be only volunteers.

County Administrator Fleener added that he has met with the sheriff and others. They are working on getting all the facts. There are heat lamps, and there are adoption records. Rules, statutes, procedures, and the current state are being worked on.

13. ADJOURN