



# AGENDA

## WASHINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Thursday, February 19, 2026, 9:00 AM, Commission Board Room  
1331 South Blvd., Chipley, FL 32428

### DISTRICT 1

Ashlynn Marquez  
Vice-Chairwoman

### DISTRICT 2

David  
Pettis Jr. Chairman

### DISTRICT 3

Joey Brock

### DISTRICT 4

Wesley  
Griffin

### DISTRICT 5

David Corbin

## 1. PROCLAMATION

- 1.1 Call to Order - Chairman Pettis
- 1.2 Invocation – Mr. Wayne Penny, Grace Assembly
- 1.3 Pledge

## 2. ADOPT THE AGENDA

Additions:

- 7.5 - Waiver Request for Goodwill Industries for the rental of the Ag Center
- 7.6 - 911 Grants and Procurement Letters
- 7.7 - Highway 79 Corridor Development Update

Motion to approve the agenda.

*Moved by:* Wesley Griffin

*Seconded by:* Joey Brock

**Aye:** David Corbin, David Pettis Jr., Wesley Griffin, Ashlynn Marquez, and Joey Brock

**Carried 5-0**

## 3. PUBLIC HEARING

- 3.1 Senate Bill 180 National Flood Insurance - County Attorney Fuqua  
The ordinance addresses modifications required by the Florida Legislature for what occurs after a storm. Before approval, the document should be amended in section 5a to include 364 days.

Motion to approve the ordinance for Senate Bill 180, National Flood Insurance.

*Moved by:* Joey Brock

*Seconded by:* David Corbin

**Aye:** David Corbin, David Pettis Jr., Wesley Griffin, Ashlynn Marquez, and Joey Brock

**Carried 5-0**

#### **4. ADOPT PREVIOUS MINUTES**

- 4.1 Board Meeting for January 15, 2026  
Motion to adopt the minutes for January 15, 2026.

*Moved by:* Wesley Griffin

*Seconded by:* Ashlynn Marquez

**Aye:** David Corbin, David Pettis Jr., Wesley Griffin, Ashlynn Marquez, and Joey Brock

**Carried 5-0**

#### **5. NON-AGENDA AUDIENCE/PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

- Pamela Andrews thanked the board for their participation in the Black History Program.
- Kenneth Attard spoke on the MSBU ordinance, saying that MSBU funds should be used to supplement and improve upon services normally provided by the county, not to replace them. When roads near current building activity are prioritized without a written public safety matrix, it creates the appearance that the MSBU assessments are directly advancing development interest.
- Troy Cunningham expressed multiple concerns regarding the fire ordinance on the agenda, which included, but were not limited to, whether additional employees would be hired and how the positions would be funded.

#### **6. CONSENT AGENDA**

Motion to approve the consent agenda.

*Moved by:* Wesley Griffin

Seconded by: Joey Brock

**Aye:** David Corbin, David Pettis Jr., Wesley Griffin, Ashlynn Marquez, and Joey Brock

**Carried 5-0**

- 6.1 Approval to Accept Second Amendment for Broadband Network, SOM1101-Carol Underwood / Keith Pegues, Wildstar
- 6.2 CR 280 Douglas Ferry Road Improvements (SCRAP) -Resolution Adopting Supplemental Agreement to Existing Agreement No. G3148- Brent Melvin, DHM Melvin Engineering
- 6.3 Resolution Approving Application to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Florida Boating Improvements Program-GAP POND-Joseph Alday, Alday-Howell
- 6.4 Approval to Advertise Fire Code Ordinances
- 6.5 Approval to Advertise Flood Ordinances

## 7. AGENDA ITEMS

- 7.1 America 250 Grant- Revolution Road Project Bid Award-Heather Lopez, TDC Director  
Four bids were tabulated and ranked. Board approval is requested to enter negotiations with the highest-ranked and low-bidder, Enviro-Signs.  
Motion to approve of the tourist development to enter contract negotiations with Enviro-Signs.

*Moved by:* Wesley Griffin

*Seconded by:* David Corbin

**Aye:** David Corbin, David Pettis Jr., Wesley Griffin, Ashlynn Marquez, and Joey Brock

**Carried 5-0**

- 7.2 Update to WCPL Public Service Policy Manual- Renae Rountree, Library Director  
Adjustments were made to the policy to support privacy. The update will meet compliance, allowing them to implement the MessageBee Program.  
Motion to approve the updated WCPL Public Service Policy Manual.

*Moved by:* David Corbin

*Seconded by:* Ashlynn Marquez

**Aye:** David Corbin, David Pettis Jr., Wesley Griffin, Ashlynn Marquez, and Joey Brock

**Carried 5-0**

- 7.3 .Panhandle Crime Stoppers, Inc. Discussion-David Pettis, Jr., Chairman Rusty Russell, Volunteer with Panhandle Crime Stoppers, said they are asking to be a representative/agent for Washington County for the funds that the Florida Legislature has in the Crime Stopper Trust Fund. The funds are used to pay for the call center, rewards, and advertising.

Motion to approve the Panhandle Crime Stoppers as the representative for Washington County.

*Moved by:* Wesley Griffin

*Seconded by:* Joey Brock

**Aye:** David Corbin, David Pettis Jr., Wesley Griffin, Ashlynn Marquez, and Joey Brock

**Carried 5-0**

- 7.4 .RFQ 2025-01 Engineering, Design, and CEI Continuing Services Contract-David Pettis, Jr., Chairman

The top five scores are as follows:

- Panhandle Engineering - 2,350
- Metric Engineering - 2,250
- Gortemoller Engineering - 1,875
- Momentum Engineering - 1,825
- Neel-Schaffer - 1,775

Commissioner Corbin clarified that the contracts would coincide with the other five engineering contracts.

Motion to hire Panhandle Engineering and Metric Engineering, the top two engineering contractors whose contracts would coincide and end when the others do.

*Moved by:* Wesley Griffin

*Seconded by:* Ashlynn Marquez

**Aye:** David Corbin, Wesley Griffin, Ashlynn Marquez, and Joey Brock

**Nay:** David Pettis Jr.

**Carried 4-1**

7.5 Request for Waiver of Ag Center Rental Fees for Job Fair-Andrew S. Fleener, County Administrator

Motion to approve the waiver of the rental fee for the ag center for Goodwill Industries.

*Moved by:* Wesley Griffin

*Seconded by:* David Corbin

**Aye:** David Corbin, David Pettis Jr., Wesley Griffin, Ashlynn Marquez, and Joey Brock

**Carried 5-0**

7.6 E-911 Grants-Clint Erickson, E-911 Addressing Director

Request to apply for three grants, which will each require a procurement letter. One grant is for recording equipment and the new system that was purchased for the sheriff's department. The recorder is \$60,000.00, and the maintenance on it will be \$13,405.00 annually. The second grant is for a new emergency 911 call system in the sheriff's office for \$624,398.06. The third grant is for cyber security and radio maintenance in dispatch for \$37,948.68. Due to the nature of the equipment and cost effectiveness of pulling everything out, and cybersecurity, they do not want to go out for bid.

Motion to waive the procurement policy for Motorola Systems E-911 System upgrade, E-911 call recording equipment, and dispatch radio console maintenance.

*Moved by:* Ashlynn Marquez

*Seconded by:* Wesley Griffin

**Aye:** David Corbin, David Pettis Jr., Wesley Griffin, Ashlynn Marquez, and Joey Brock

**Carried 5-0**

Motion to approve submitting grant applications for Motorola System E-911 System upgrade, E-911 call recording equipment, and dispatch radio console maintenance.

*Moved by:* Wesley Griffin

*Seconded by:* Joey Brock

**Aye:** David Corbin, David Pettis Jr., Wesley Griffin, Ashlynn Marquez, and Joey Brock

7.7 Highway 79 Corridor Authority Update-David Pettis, Jr., Chairman  
Chairman Pettis - Previously, the City of Bonifay said they would like to take ownership of the system and have the liability transferred to them. The entities that manage the grant have approved the grant to be transferred to the City of Bonifay. At the Highway 79 Corridor meeting yesterday, legal recommended that WCBOCC direct the county administrator attend a City of Bonifay Council meeting and make the transfer request in person.

County Attorney Milton added that there is an assumption agreement that needs to be signed, which was prepared by the attorney for the Highway 79 Corridor. The City of Bonifay has not responded, nor have they attended the last couple of meetings. Once the documents are signed, the Highway 79 Corridor Authority can be dissolved.

The consensus of the board is for the county administrator to attend the City of Bonifay’s meeting.

**8. FEMA COORDINATOR**

8.1 Hurricane Michael Recycling Center Repairs-Mason Garrett, Wheeler EMC  
\$21,000.00 is earmarked for the recycling center. A scope will be brought back before the board before a decision is made. A time extension has been requested up to October.

8.2 Mud Hill Change Order Request-Mason Garrett, Wheeler EMC  
A change order approval for a reduction of \$1,000.00 is requested due to concrete work that was not needed at public works.

Motion to approve the Mud Hill Change Order.

*Moved by:* David Corbin  
*Seconded by:* Wesley Griffin

**Aye:** David Corbin, David Pettis Jr., Wesley Griffin, Ashlynn Marquez, and Joey Brock

Carried 5-0

**9. BUILDING OFFICIAL**

Charles Vannatter, building official, said that he holds the title of fire official, which covers inspections, the marshals, and whatever the language needs to be in Florida. The title is broad. It gives language that allows him to do the job that is needed by the county. The authority of the fire official is requested to be under the fire chief in the ordinance.

**10. MSBU ADVISORY COMMITTEE UPDATE**

Gary Hartman informed the board that the next meeting is on March 4 at 6 p.m. at the Sunny Hills Community Center.

**11. PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR**

**12. PARKS UPDATE**

**13. ENGINEERING PROJECTS UPDATE**

- 13.1 Approval of Task Work Order - Update to Vulnerability Assessment and Adaptation Plan FDEP Resilient Grant Program-Jonathan Sims, Dewberry  
Motion to approve the task order for the Vulnerability Assessment and Adaptation Plan.

*Moved by:* Wesley Griffin

*Seconded by:* Joey Brock

**Aye:** David Corbin, David Pettis Jr., Wesley Griffin, Ashlynn Marquez, and Joey Brock

**Carried 5-0**

- 13.2 Task Work Order - Keenkutter Road Stormwater Improvements - FDEP Resilient Grant-Jonathan Sims, Dewberry  
Motion to approve the task work order for Keenkutter Road Stormwater improvements.

*Moved by:* David Corbin

*Seconded by:* Wesley Griffin

**Aye:** David Corbin, David Pettis Jr., Wesley Griffin, Ashlynn Marquez, and Joey Brock

**Carried 5-0**

- 13.3 Brown Street Update  
The project is under CBDG review for the environmental process. The design is not done until the environmental is complete. Campbell Park is also included in the grant.

Recess 9:50 - 10:01

## 14. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

### 14.1 Website Redesign and Maintenance

County Administrator Fleener - The package that has been provided to the board is for review only. Before the presentation, they discovered that they may qualify for another discount.

### 14.2 Burn Ban Ordinance

Attorney Fuqua - The proposed burn ban ordinance would give the chairman and vice-chairman authority to implement and terminate the burn ban. It meets the requirements of the Forestry Department. This would remove the requirement of a special meeting every time a burn ban needs to be implemented. Approval is requested to advertise for adoption next month.

Forestry has the authority to authorize a controlled burn during a burn ban.

Motion to approve advertising ordinance 2026 -01. Further in the meeting, Deputy Clerk Brantley noted that the ordinance number had been previously used. County Attorney Fuqua said the number would be left open to be filled in.

*Moved by: Joey Brock*

*Seconded by: Wesley Griffin*

**Aye:** David Corbin, David Pettis Jr., Wesley Griffin, Ashlynn Marquez, and Joey Brock

**Carried 5-0**

### 14.3 Termination of the MOU Between Washington County and the Economic Development Council

Noting its ineffectiveness, County Administrator Fleener recommended that the board terminate the MOU with the Economic Development Council, move the position from the Chamber of Commerce and EDC Executive Committee to the county, and work with the committee over the next year toward a redesign. Some of the concerns were about the county funds, not being allowed to speak to the EDC Director, the lack of authority for the EDC Director, and questions regarding sunshine.

Legal added concerns regarding confidentiality provisions that are allowed under the statute, which many incoming developers want. Mr. Daniels is already a county employee who is being leased to the chamber.

County Administrator Fleener has verified with the Florida Association of Counties attorney that, based on the MOU, they would be clear to proceed without advertising.

County Attorney Milton added that there may be some additional steps. Either route taken, communication is imperative.

County Administrator Fleener informed the board that, based on the history provided by the EDC, there would be an additional cost of around \$40,000.00. The Highway 79 Corridor funds should end this year; however, there is funding to cover it this year.

Clerk Bell clarified that funds paid by the hospital that were earmarked for economic development are separate from the \$75,000.00 that the county gives for economic development. The amount was previously \$50,000.00.

Deputy Clerk Brantley added that there have been previous approvals for the disbursement of the annual funds to the Highway 79 Corridor to be taken from the funds allotted for economic development.

County Attorney Fuqua explained that the MOU states the county pays the salary and is reimbursed for the expense, while County Administrator Fleener expressed doubt about this being the intent, despite it being documented.

Tracy Andrews, Chairwoman of the Washington County Economic Development Council (EDC), addressed the board regarding its transition from a sub-committee of the Chamber of Commerce to the hope of being an independent body by 2027. The EDC aims to foster public-private partnerships and attract talent through a structured MOU benefits package. They are developing a portfolio of potential sites in Washington County, emphasizing the inclusion of representatives from each municipality, with seats currently vacant for Ebro and Caryville. Andrews expressed disagreement with the termination of the MOU and defunding decisions but acknowledged the county's position to evaluate its structure and future direction. A workshop prior to this item being on the agenda would have been ideal.

Cindy Birge, EDC Treasurer, reported to the board that private investments totaled nearly \$28,000 last year, showing annual growth. A few years ago, the board increased the county's annual payment from \$50,000 to \$75,000 to support hiring someone for marketing. Birge expressed her opposition to defunding and noted that many project details remain confidential. She mentioned that few counties operate their own EDC, and none of their current leads originate from the county. Additionally, they were surprised to learn they might have to repay the previous year's \$75,000 funding.

Terry Ellis addressed the board, explaining that Economic Development Corporations (EDCs) operate as public-private partnerships and are not intended to function as another arm of government. He provided a history of the establishment of the EDC. EDC's efforts are carried out on behalf of Washington County, which is the largest stakeholder in the process. The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) does not need to be ended, as it represents the functioning body, and there are currently projects and initiatives underway.

County Attorney Fuqua questioned if there was a directive for the EDC Director not to speak with the county administrator or a board member, if so, what was the reasoning behind it?

Tracey Andrews informed the board that during a meeting with Mr. Fleener and the Washington County Executive Board, they learned that a unanimous decision had already been made regarding the matter. Following that information, the EDC Board determined that internal changes were necessary. She added that Mr. Fleener may continue to make contact during this interim period until the situation is resolved.

There was discussion on when the decision was made by the Executive Board of the Chamber, which was confirmed as Thursday, February 12, with no other members present. The EDC Director was not present when the decision was made for him to be on administrative paid leave.

Commissioner Pettis added that if they had been invited, they may have been able to explain some of this.

Commissioner Marquez added that she would like a monthly update from the EDC Director and for communication on what is permitted under Chapter 119.

There was additional discussion, with the consensus being to set a meeting to include the county administrator, county attorney, BOCC Chairman, chamber representative, and someone from the EDC Board. A new entity that serves the job of what is being done, which will have an organizational structure, bylaws, rules, and procedures to prevent getting to this point again.

The commissioners and the county administrator shared their concerns about the employee. They hope there will be no retaliatory actions or any dismissals soon.

**15. CLERK**

Deputy Clerk Brantley informed the board that ordinance number 2026 - 01 was used in January.

Chairman Pettis said for the Burn Ban Ordinance, they voted to advertise as 2026 -01 will be amended to say 2026-02.

Clerk Bell informed the board that she will bring forth a budget amendment for her budget at the April meeting due to the increase in tax deeds. From October 2025 - February 2026, there were 240 cases, and for that same period last fiscal year, there were forty-one cases. Additional staff had to be added due to this. The revenues will increase; therefore, there will not be a request for additional funds.

**16. COUNTY ATTORNEY**

**17. OTHER BUSINESS**

**18. ADJOURN**

Motion to adjourn.

*Moved by:* Ashlynn Marquez

**Aye:** David Corbin, David Pettis Jr., Wesley Griffin, Ashlynn Marquez, and Joey Brock

**Carried 5-0**

Summary of Minutes Prepared by Risha Brantley