



MINUTES
WASHINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
BOARD WORKSHOP
Thursday, April 9, 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 Memorandum of Agreement with Florida Department of Corrections-Justin Barron, Fire Chief - This item was removed and will be addressed on 4/16/2026.
- 2.2 E911 Transfer Request Totaling \$29,550 - Johnnie Pettis, Finance Director
Requested approval to transfer grant funds to the E-911 expense line item. - This item will be added to the consent agenda.
- 2.3 Employee Handbook Updates-Wendy White, HR Director - This item was removed and will be addressed on 4/16/2026.

3. FEMA COORDINATOR

- 3.1 Procurement Updates for F-ROC (Florida Recovery Obligation Calculation) Compliance - Mason Garrett
 - The update request is in an effort to increase the F-ROC score. The higher the score, the more funds can be increased upfront. - This item will be listed on the consent agenda.
 - Currently, there is no update on arbitration. FEMA remains shut down.

4. BUILDING OFFICIAL

5. MSBU ADVISORY COMMITTEE UPDATE

- 5.1 MSBU Assessment

Gary Hartman informed the board that the committee voted to increase the MSBU assessment by 5%, which is allowed under the ordinance. The increase will be from \$40.72 to \$42.76.

Commissioner Griffin questioned the water quality in Sunny Hills.

County Administrator Fleener responded that he has a meeting with US Water and plans to have a representative at the meeting on 4/16/2026 to update the board.

The MSBU rate resolution increase will be on the consent agenda.

6. PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR

7. PARKS UPDATE

George Swauger updated the board.

- Hunter Park Splashpad is coming up upon completion. Due to a lack of funding, he has agreed to finish the sod work. A ribbon-cutting and opening day need to be discussed. The sheriff's office has been contacted regarding being a part of it.

County Administrator Fleener added that he is trying to coordinate with the City of Vernon.

- Wilder Park Restrooms are close to being complete.
- Blue Lake restrooms have been closed recently due to multiple instances of vandalism. They have been cleaned and reopened in preparation for Employee Appreciation Day.

County Administrator Fleener added that they are looking at fixing the boat ramp while the water is low.

8. ENGINEERING PROJECTS UPDATE

9. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

9.1 County Properties Assessed Greater Than and Less Than \$5,000

County Administrator Fleener informed the board that they must do those that are \$5,000.00 or greater, which is the recommendation before the board.

Commissioner Marquez provided a printout to the commissioners about the properties \$3,500.00 and above.

The recommendation to proceed with properties \$5,000.00 and above will be listed on the consent agenda.

9.2 Update on.GOV Progress

A .gov email would be more secure and would reflect a legitimate government. This item is for informational purposes.

9.3 Website Redesign and Maintenance

- Chipley Digital is the lowest at \$16,400.00.
- GHD Digital is the second at \$35,380.00, which is considered the best value by staff.
- Kerigan (KMA) is \$37,955.00.
- Civic Plus is the extreme out of the area.
\$35,380.00 is the best value, and if location and time response matter more, it would be Kerigan. References for both companies are positive.

This item will be added to the regular agenda.

Stephen Schmidt, representative of Kerigan Marketing, Bay County, gave the board some highlights of Kerigan Marketing. Reliability over the next few years should be considered. Their goal is to build the website, so the staff does not have to rely on a vendor to make updates.

- Among multiple companies, they also serve Holmes, Jackson, Bay, and Calhoun.
- Post-launch recorded training will be accessible to staff.
- ADA accessibility standards will be met.
- Same-day response and support are offered.
- 4.9 Google Rating

10. CLERK

March Vouchers Totaling \$3,492,263.49 - Clerk Bell

11. COUNTY ATTORNEY

11.1 Update Chapter 14 Building Ordinance - Attorney Fuqua

Per the board, a public hearing will be held on this ordinance on 4/16/26.

Commissioner Griffin questioned whether something had been changed, prohibiting a 200-amp service on a pole barn (ag barn).

Charles Vannatter, Building/Fire Official, responded that they are trying to prevent homes from being built without a permit by eliminating that. To say that it is for a well, a well could be done with a 100-amp. There have been at least four documented homes that have been built this way that are known of. They are trying to eliminate that by asking the applicant about the use of the structure.

12. ENGINEERING PROJECTS UPDATE

13. OTHER BUSINESS

- Following this meeting and a recess, a special meeting for a burn ban will be held.

A discussion was held regarding the water system in Sunny Hills. Some items discussed are listed below.

The residents are looking at the board to be their voice. If the board cannot help them, they need to be able to point them in the right direction.

- \$750,000.00 has been awarded for water, sewer, and infrastructure upgrades. What were these funds applied for?
- There are 75 miles of water lines in Sunny Hills that were installed over 50 years ago by Deltona.

Gary Hartman addressed the board.

- 24,500 lots are in the subdivision.
- There is a franchise agreement that gives the board some control of what occurs there.
- 240 multifamily lots can have up to 20 units per acre if there are sewer and water; however, without them, there can only be three units per acre.
- Sewer and water cannot be hooked up to commercial properties at this time because the plant does not have the capacity to handle it. It is stunting the growth in Sunny Hills.

County Attorney Fuqua told the board that he would confirm the advertising of the building department ordinance. If it is not, he will take it as the board's authority to advertise for adoption.

It was the consensus of the board to proceed.

14. ADJOURN

10-minute recess until the special meeting regarding the burn ban.