



WASHINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Thursday, May 14, 2026, 9:00 AM, Commission Board Room
1331 South Blvd., Chipley, FL 32428

DISTRICT 1
Ashlynn Marquez
Vice-Chairman

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 - Chairman Pettis
- 1.3 Pledge

2. ADOPT THE AGENDA

Agenda Additions:

- 7.7 - Opioid DocuSign - Request approval for the chairman to sign the opioid agreement(s)
- 7.8 - Request for approval for resolution, inter-local agreement for purchase and sale of utility assessment, and the assignment and assumption agreement for the Highway 79 Corridor

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 Flood Plain Ordinance-County Attorney, Fuqua & Milton, PA
Attorney Fuqua spoke on the ordinance. The ordinance mainly clarifies text from the previous Flood Plain Ordinance required by the National Flood Insurance Program. The advertisement requirements have been met.

Motion to adopt the Flood Plain Ordinance.

Moved by: Joey Brock; seconded by: Ashlynn Marquez

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

Carried 5-0

4. ADOPT PREVIOUS MINUTES

Motion to approve the minutes labeled 4.1 - 4.3.

Moved by: Joey Brock; seconded by: Ashlynn Marquez

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

Carried 5-0

4.1 Board Workshop for April 9, 2026

4.2 Special Meeting for April 9, 2026

4.3 Board Meeting for April 16, 2026

5. NON-AGENDA AUDIENCE/PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- Ken Attard informed the board that there is an active citizen petition in Sunny Hills calling for the abolishment of the Sunny Hills Oak Hill MSBU. Why would the board proceed with advancing a rate resolution when the payees want to abolish it?
- Jolene Attard spoke about the following statement: without the ongoing service assessments, the county would be unable to provide county services. She expressed her opposition to the resolution being brought forth about the MSBU and Sunny Hills. She also spoke on the MSBU being operated and controlled by the county using an advisory board and a coordinator.
- Jacob Cook provided an update about clearing some waterways. They have cleared from Holmes Creek /Vernon Bridge down the Choctawhatchee River, which has made it possible to boat down the river from Hightower Landing. Working with Water Management, funding has been secured to clear Burnt Sock to Cotton, which will be completed by the end of June.
- Larry Lomax supported Jolene and Ken Attard's views. The commissioners should refrain from proceeding until the petition has been presented to them.
- Lucy Maquitis informed the board that they have voted against MSBU three times, and yet the WCBOCC passed it.

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 of Resolution for Gap Lake Tanner Carter Boat Launch
- 6.2 Approval of Usage of Orange Hill Park for America 250 Revolution Road Driving Trail Launch Event
- 6.3 Approval of America 250 Interpretive Panel Placement at Orange Hill Park, Wayside Park, the Government Annex, and Blue Lake
- 6.4 Approval of National Travel & Tourism Week Proclamation
- 6.5 Approval of NCBA Host Agency Agreement

7. AGENDA ITEMS

- 7.1 Washington County District School Board Resolution Number 25-05-Thomas Register, Superintendent of Schools

Jessica Stephens, Washington County School District Director, addressed the board in the absence of Thomas Register. She informed the board that the Washington County School District passed resolution 25-05 to authorize a referendum election and to request the Washington County Board of County Commissioners to approve to place a special referendum on the November 3 general election ballot to allow the electors to vote on a tax neutral flexible funding to reduce ad valorem taxes up to .75 mills for capital funding and add up to .75 mills of ad valorem taxes for operating funding. The referendum will support high quality staff and academic outcomes without increasing taxes. The state funding formula does not allow for flexibility between operating funds and capital funds. This will not result in any additional expenses to the taxpayers. It will be in place for four years.

Approval is requested for the WCBOCC to take the necessary action to call the referendum election and place this measure on the ballot for the general election on November 3, 2026.

Motion to approve to allow the referendum to be put on the ballot as requested above.

Moved by: David Corbin; seconded by: Joey Brock

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

Carried 5-0

- 7.2 Request for Approval to Use Campbell Park Community Center for the 2026 Summer Lunch Program-Jiranda White, Director of Food Service and Federal Programs, requested approval to use Campbell Park for the summer lunch program. It would be for breakfast and lunch from 9 - 12, Monday - Thursday, from June 8 to July 30. It is for those eighteen and under.

Motion to approve the Washington County School District to use Campbell Park for the summer lunch program.

Moved by: Wesley Griffin; seconded by: Joey Brock

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

Carried 5-0

7.3 Sunny Hills Preliminary Rate Resolution-County Attorney, Fuqua and Milton, PA

Attorney Milton addressed the board about the annual rate resolution, which is required to continue collection throughout the term of the 2021 ordinance. The ordinance was originally for 10 years, and this is approximately 5-6 years into it. In the community services section, under section 2, entry fountain maintenance has been removed due to the fountain previously being turned over to Deltona. The preliminary rate resolution sets the public hearing to be held during the June meeting in consideration of the adoption of the final rate resolution. This is the first step in a two-step process.

The ordinance sets forth what the funds can be used for. They are not used outside of the taxing district. The ordinance includes a map attachment. The funds cannot be used to supplement the sheriff's budget throughout the county. An MSBU is not a governing body. If the MSBU were dissolved, it would have to be done via ordinance, which is the way that it was created. It is an area in which a benefit is provided by the county that is in addition to other benefits that are provided throughout the rest of the county. One example is lighting in Sunny Hills. The county does not provide manicured mowing services. MSBU is a mechanism to collect assessments to provide additional benefits in that community. Confirmation was made with the clerk that the funds are maintained and kept in a separate account.

In response to Commissioner Corbin's suggestion that there were 24,500 lots in the MSBU, Gary Hartman added that there are 15,000 lots in the MSBU. It only includes lots that are on paved roads.

Attorney Milton added that the proposed revised rate is \$42.76 per residential lot, annually. The ordinance allows for an increase of up to 5% annually.

Commissioner Marquez spoke on funds beyond the MSBU assessment that have been spent in Sunny Hills.

- 40 pages of services provided by public works for major roadways, which include sign installation, watering sod, mowing, spreading material, trimming, patching roadways, ditch work, tree removal, and cleaning ditches.

- Wilder Park Improvements - Pavilion electrical work - \$17,000.00 + materials which came from George's budget, painting and plywood, bathroom remodel for \$18,000.00, around \$5,600.00 for a new septic tank, playground equipment, \$63,000.00, labor and time for a pickleball court, new posts, net, labor and time for redoing waterlines, Gap Pond, \$58,000.00, dock installation, \$12,500.00 all from county coffers, bathroom grinder pump, \$1,400.00, monthly utility bill for Gap Pond, approximately \$275.00, Dumajack Paving Project, \$2,019,106.65, with \$62,566.00 remaining for retainage, and the 2025-2026 paving schedule totaling \$823,000.65. \$6.1M was recently approved on the consent agenda for work related to Gap Lake. The MSBU funds items above and beyond other services provided in the county. Some people are frustrated with it; however, a lot have made contact expressing gratefulness.

Motion to approve the Sunny Hills Preliminary Rate Resolution.

Moved by: David Corbin; seconded by: Ashlynn Marquez

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

Carried 5-0

Ken Attard addressed the board regarding his displeasure with the Sunny Hills MSBU.

Larry Lomax requested that the board refrain and let the people have an opportunity to speak. Do not vote against the residents of Sunny Hills. He also suggested that a meeting be scheduled to accommodate residents who aren't normally able to attend a meeting.

Beth Roberts questioned whether the county fixed water lines in Sunny Hills.

Commissioner Marquez responded that the improvements at Wilder Park included a new septic tank and a bathroom grinder pump at Gap Pond.

Commissioner Corbin spoke on being invited to the community meeting in Sunny Hills this past Saturday and being cut off every time he tried to speak. Mr. Fleener and Mr. Parrish also received the same treatment. The meeting was supposed to be about the water system. Not everyone at that meeting was against MSBU.

Attorney Milton added that the water system is private and the county does not have anything to do with it.

County Administrator Fleener added that as of Tuesday, there were six complaints filed with the Public Service Commission. There must be a sufficient number of complaints

before they can be engaged. Press releases have been put out with information on how to submit complaints.

Chairman Pettis added that there are copies of the press releases available in the meeting room.

- 7.4 Request for Approval of a Transfer of Grant Funds to E911-Risha Brantley, Request to transfer 911 PSAP Grant Funds to the revenue and other contractual line item in the 911 Budget. The total budget increase is \$31,014.60.

Motion to increase the 911 Budget by \$31,014.60.

Moved by: David Corbin; seconded by: Wesley Griffin

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

Carried 5-0

- 7.5 Library Staffing Request for Summer-Renae Rountree, Library Director
The library will receive additional state aid funds; however, they are running behind. Board approval is requested to hire a temporary/20-hour per week employee from June 1 to July 31, contingent upon state funds being received.

Motion to approve the staffing request contingent upon funding.

Moved by: David Corbin; seconded by: Wesley Griffin

Carried

- 7.6 Interviews for Engineering Firm Selection for Holmes Valley Road Gateway Project D0331-RFQ 2026-01

1. DHM Melvin Engineering

2. Panhandle Engineering

- DHM Melvin Engineering - Brent Melvin presented highlights of the company. Their mission and purpose are to serve the county in the best way possible.
 - The company is based in Marianna with a structural office in Tallahassee.
 - Introduced team members Gene Nobles, 30+ years, Jake Mathis, CEI Manager, 30+ years, Rod Adams, Senior Project Engineer, 25+ years, and himself with 6 years.
 - They have been in the Panhandle for 36+ years.
 - They participated in the initial draft for the Rural Infrastructure Fund Grant.
- Panhandle Engineering - Chris Forehand, President of Panhandle Engineering, presented highlights of the company.
 - They have been in business for 35 years.
 - Secured around \$350M for their city and county government clients.
 - Headquarters is in Lynn Haven.
 - Full-service engineering firm.

- DOT certified in most of the major workgroups that are required by DOT.
 - Working on a Florida Commerce Grant for the City of Callaway for \$2.8M.
 - Completed an intersection improvement project for the City of Panama City for \$2.9M.
 - Their cost estimate vs DHM Melvin Engineering is a difference of around \$2.8M.
- The grant award is around \$3M for construction, which is around a \$1.6M gap if their estimate is on point.

Chairman Pettis added that the recommendation from staff was Melvin Engineering, which scored slightly higher.

Motion to award the Holmes Valley Road Gateway Project D0331-RFQ 2026-01 to DHM Melvin Engineering.

Moved by: Ashlynn Marquez; seconded by: David Corbin

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

Carried 5-0

- 7.7 .Request for Approval for Chairman to Docusign Opioid Agreement (s) - David Pettis, Jr., Chairman

Attorney Milton added that this is a class action lawsuit (nationwide); therefore, the county's involvement is limited.

Motion to approve the signature authority for the chairman to sign the opioid DocuSign agreement.

Moved by: David Corbin; seconded by: Wesley Griffin

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

Carried 5-0

- 7.8 .Request for Approval of Resolution, Interlocal Agreement for Purchase and Sale of Utility Assets, and Assignment and Assumption Agreement for Highway 79 Corridor

Attorney Milton addressed the board. Washington County was the grant recipient of the DEO grant. Therefore, Washington County is assigning the grant to the City of Bonifay. The authority owns the systems/infrastructure, and it is selling/assigning the infrastructure to the City of Bonifay. The anticipated closing date for the transfer of the system is June 1. The authority was set up by an inter-local agreement among the three member entities. There is an annual audit, and likely a final audit and possibly a special audit. The payment from Washington County can be issued. Any funds remaining in the authority's account will be split between Washington and Holmes County because those entities funded the authority. The City of Bonifay is assuming the obligations under the grant agreement.

Motion to approve the resolution, Interlocal agreement for sale of utility assets, and assignment and assumption agreement for the Highway 79 Corridor.

Moved by: Wesley Griffin; seconded by: Joey Brock

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

Carried 5-0

8. CLERK

8.1 April Vouchers Totaling \$4,654,949.89

Clerk Bell read the April voucher total on record.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

Chairman Pettis brought up a discussion regarding the creation of an official RFQ and RFP process. The consensus of the board is to proceed with this item.

10. ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn.

Moved by: Wesley Griffin; seconded 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