



MINUTES
WASHINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Tuesday, July 28, 2026, 9:00 AM, Commission Board Room
1331 South Blvd., Chipley, FL 32428

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

1. PROCLAMATION

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

2. ADOPT THE AGENDA

Motion to approve the agenda.

Moved by: David Corbin; seconded by: Wesley Griffin

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

Carried 5-0

3. NON-AGENDA AUDIENCE/PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Jolene Attard spoke to the Board about ongoing water issues in Sunny Hills.

- She asked what actions had been taken since the previous community meeting.
- She stated that testing chlorine levels from fire hydrants was not the testing residents needed.
- She noted that residents are facing higher costs due to the increased MSBU rate and an upcoming water rate increase.
- She asked the Board to consider the impact on voters before making decisions on the millage rate.

4. AGENDA ITEMS

- 4.1 Selection of Tentative Millage Rate-David Pettis, Jr., Chairman
Anything above the rolled-back rate of 7.9424 will be advertised as an increase. The projected rolled-back revenue is \$13,017,561. Options are as follows:

8.00

The projected operating Ad Valorem amount is \$13,111,967.

8.50

The projected operating Ad Valorem amount is \$13,931,465.

9.00

The projected operating Ad Valorem amount is \$14,750,963.

9.50

The projected operating Ad Valorem amount is \$15,570,461.

8.50

The current fiscal year operating ad valorem budgeted is \$12,584,606.00, of which \$11,737,211.85 has been received.

Motion to leave the current millage rate of 8.5, which is the same it has been since 2021.

Moved by: Ashlynn Marquez; seconded by: David Corbin

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

Carried 5-0

Ken Attard clarified that 8.5 is raising the taxes. More property taxes have been added to the tax infrastructure over the last year.

County Administrator Fleener briefed the Board on budget uncertainty due to ongoing state-level factors and an upcoming amendment vote.

- He stated that a millage rate of 8.5 would provide funds for county investment, and that no pay increases are currently projected.
- Maintaining the rate at 8.5 would generate approximately \$1 million, with insurance increases accounting for about \$400,000 of that amount.
- He noted that keeping the millage rate the same appears to be the most sensible option.
- He added that the coming year will be tight financially, but the additional value from new homes will help provide some extra revenue at the current millage level.

Commissioner Griffin questioned how much Washington County would be affected if the bill passes.

County Administrator Fleener stated that the financial impact would be approximately \$2 million in the first year and \$1.8 million in the second year.

- He added that addressing this would not involve minor reductions but would require cuts in jobs and services.

Commissioner Marquez noted that the state has mandated a minimum wage of \$15.00 per hour effective September 1, and some county employees are currently below that rate.

- She stated that the wage change, along with high-risk retirement costs and health insurance

expenses, will affect the budget.

- She mentioned the county's interest in adding an ambulance station at Daniels Lake.
- She acknowledged that new homes increase revenue but also expand the service area.
- She offered to review the budget with Ken Attard if he wished.

Commissioner Marquez added that the state mandated that the minimum wage be \$15.00 per hour effective September 1. Some employees are not at that rate. That will affect the budget, along with high-risk retirement and health insurance. The county also would like to add an ambulance station at Daniels Lake. Yes, there are new homes, and those new homes increase the service area. She offered to go over the budget with Ken Attard if he would like.

The motion carried unanimously following the discussion.

5. OTHER BUSINESS

6. ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn.

Moved by: Wesley Griffin; seconded by: Joey Brock

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

Carried 5-0

Summary of Minutes Prepared by Risha Brantley