

## WASHINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Location: Commission Board Room

1331 South Blvd., Chipley, FL 32428

DISTRICT 1	DISTRICT 2	DISTRICT 3	DISTRICT 4	DISTRICT
Alan T Bush	David Pettis, Jr.	Tray Hawkins	Wesley Griffin	David Corbin

## 1. PROCLAMATION

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

Present – Commissioners Bush, Pettis, Hawkins, Griffin, and Corbin. Also attending – Deputy Clerk Brantley, Clerk of Court, Lora Bell, County Administrator, Jeff Massey, and Attorney Fuqua, Fuqua & Milton, P.A.

## 2. PUBLIC HEARING

Fiscal Year 24/25 Millage and Budget

Chairman Pettis – The Washington County Board of County Commissioners millage rate to be levied remains at 8.50, which is 7.87 percent above the rolled-back rate of 7.8797. The reason ad valorem tax revenues are increasing is because the gross taxable value for operating purposes for this fiscal year is \$1,343,651,067.00, and it was \$1,217,275,915.00 last fiscal year. This meeting was advertised in the Washington County Newspaper on September 18, 2024.

## 3. ADOPT THE AGENDA

Agenda Addition – 5.4 – Local State of Emergency – Lynne Abel, Public Safety Director

Commissioner Griffin offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Corbin, and unanimously approved to adopt the agenda.

4. NON-AGENDA AUDIENCE/PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - Effective October 1, 2013, Florida Statute 286.0114 mandates that “members of the public shall be given a reasonable opportunity to be heard on a proposition before a Board or Commission.”

- The Washington County Board of County Commissioners has expanded this provision to allow members of the community to speak on a topic which is not currently before the Board/Agenda. To do so the community members should, prior to the start of the meeting, sign the public participation form provided at the door of the commission room, and shall state their name and the topic on which they wish to speak. During the Non-Agenda Audience portion of

the meeting, the individual shall be given up to three (3) minutes to speak.

- Each individual shall have three (3) minutes to speak about a proposition before the Board. Prior to the time a meeting has been called to order, should an individual or group wish to address an item which is on the agenda for consideration, the individual or group shall obtain, from the Commission Secretary or Clerk, a public comment form and may write on the form their name and the agenda matter which they wish to address. The completed form(s) shall be returned to the Commission Secretary/Clerk, who shall provide the form(s) to the Chairperson. Should a particular group wish to address an item, they shall nominate a spokesperson to voice their ideas, comments, and concerns. In the event an individual wishes to speak on an item and has not signed up in advance, those who have signed shall be given priority.
- Any public comment before the board shall be directed to the Chairperson of the Board. It is not a question-and-answer period. Public comments concerning individual employees (other than those hired directly by the Board (County Administrator/County Attorney) shall not be entertained. Any comment, pros, or cons, regarding a county employee who does not report directly to the Board shall be addressed to the Human Relations Department or the County Administrator. - None

## 5. AGENDA ITEMS

- 5.1 Millage Rate Resolution – 8.5000 – Commissioner Hawkins offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Bush, and unanimously carried at 5:08 p.m. by roll call vote to set the millage rate at 8.5000 for Fiscal Year 2024 – 2025.
- 5.2 2024 – 2025 Fiscal Year Budget Resolution – Commissioner Bush offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Hawkins, and unanimously carried at 5:09 p.m. by roll call vote to approve the 2024 – 2025 Fiscal Year Budget.
- 5.3 2024 – 2025 Fiscal Year MSBU Budget Resolution – Commissioner Hawkins offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Bush, and unanimously carried at 5:10 p.m. by roll call vote to approve the 2024 – 2025 Fiscal Year Budget for MSBU.
- 5.4 LSE – Lynne Abel, Public Safety Director updated the board on the current tropical system that is in the Caribbean. Landfall of a category three or higher storm is expected around Thursday. Approval is requested of the board to declare an LSE effective September 24 at 7:00 a.m. through October 1 at 7:00 a.m. The Governor has signed an executive order, which includes Washington County.

Commissioner Bush offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Hawkins, to approve the LSE.

Commissioner Hawkins spoke of staging areas being beneficial during Hurricane Michael. They were used for the debris company, power companies, and the Cajun Navy. Staging areas need to be taken into consideration for this event.

The motion on the floor carried unanimously.

Commissioner Hawkins added that they do not have a meal contract in place.

Lynne Abel added that direction would be helpful.

6. ADJOURN