

JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Regular Session
Courthouse Annex
January 16, 2020
6:00 P.M.

The Board met this date in regular session. Present were Chairman JT Surlles, Commissioners Betsy Barfield, Stephen Fulford, Eugene Hall and Stephen Walker. Also present were County Attorneys Buck Bird and Scott Shirley and Clerk of Court Kirk Reams.

1. Chairman Surlles called the meeting order. Commissioner Hall led the invocation and pledge of allegiance.
2. Attorney David Collins gave an update on the proposed NextEra power line project. He stated that he and Clerk of Court Reams had discussed the project with landowners that would be impacted and found that about 70% had not engaged in any negotiations or settlement for land at this point in time. He advised that landowners not in favor of the project should not enter into negotiations or sell land at this time. This will ultimately slow the project down and potentially direct NextEra to an alternative path for the power lines due to the potential of imminent domain litigation.
3. David Ward, on behalf of the Aucilla Research Institute, introduced Dr. George Cole, Dr. Willett Boyer and Dr. Jim Dunbar. Each of these gentlemen gave a presentation concerning the history of Jefferson County and its land and topography. Dr. George Cole identified a list of lands that should be in conservation due to their topography. Dr. Boyer did a presentation and discussed all of the historical archaeological sites in the county. Dr. Dunbar, Chair of the Aucilla Research Institute, gave a presentation on all of the floodplains in Jefferson County as well as the panhandle at large.
4. Commissioner Hall requested that item 3(d) on the consent agenda be moved to General Business as item 4(e) for discussion. **On motion by Commissioner Walker, seconded by Commissioner Fulford and unanimously carried, the Board approved the consent agenda, consisting of: Approval of the Agenda as amended, General Fund/Transportation Vouchers and minutes for the 12/19/2019 Regular Session.**
5. County Coordinator Parrish Barwick introduced the Emergency Caution/Stop Light on US 19 south item. He stated something was needed where Fire/EMS vehicles are pulling onto the highway. Ryan Asmus with FDOT stated went through the different options to remedy this situation. **On motion by Commissioner Barfield, seconded by Commissioner Fulford and unanimously carried, the Board requested County Coordinator Barwick and Fire Rescue Chief Burrus bring a recommendation back to a future meeting.**
6. County Coordinator Barwick introduced the informational sign on US-19 south to identify the proximity of the fire station. **On motion by Commissioner Fulford, seconded by Commissioner Walker and unanimously carried, the Board requested County Coordinator Barwick and Fire Rescue Chief Burrus work with FDOT and bring a recommendation for signage back to a future meeting.**
7. County Coordinator Barwick introduced the solid waste collection site lease requested change from property owner. He stated that ownership of the property has changed and

there is currently not a lease agreement in place, but the County has been paying \$200/month for use of the site. The new owners are requesting an increase to \$500/month. **On motion by Commissioner Fulford, seconded by Commissioner Fulford and unanimously carried, the Board agreed to table this item until the next meeting to see if the County Coordinator could find another suitable within the same proximity.**

8. Commissioner Walker introduced the resolution declaring Jefferson County a Second Amendment Sanctuary. **On motion by Commissioner Fulford, seconded by Commissioner Hall and unanimously carried, the Board approved the resolution.**
9. Commissioner Hall introduced the Small County and Non-Profit Grant applications for Approval item. He stated that the two Opera House items were fully funded but the Martin Luther King Community Center was only partially funded. **On motion by Commissioner Walker, seconded by Commissioner Barfield and unanimously carried, the Board voted to fully fund all of the requested applications.**
10. Citizen Carly Peary expressed concern with the lack of formal recycling policies in the County and offered to help create some policies if they so desired.
11. Ryan Asmus with FDOT stated there would be toll road task force meetings in the spring and summer and they would be published and advertised locally.
12. Citizen Clayton Tolbert gave a brief update concerning the school board relinquishing the \$2,000 lease payment for the A Building.
13. Clerk of Court Kirk Reams stated he would be working with County Engineers and County Coordinator Barwick to put together a list of potential SCRAP, SCOP and CIGP grant applications for the Board to review within the next several weeks.
14. County Coordinator Barwick stated he would have a list of potential committee appointments for County Commissioners to review and approve.
15. County Coordinator Barwick provided an informational update on curbside pickup. He stated that, based on the quote, this direction would be significantly more expensive than the current arrangement.
16. County Coordinator Barwick presented the Board with a \$90,000 offer for the SHIP home on 4th Street. **On motion by Commissioner Walker, seconded by Commissioner Barfield and unanimously carried, the Board approved the sale of the house.**
17. County Attorney Scott Shirley provided an update on a question posed at a previous meeting regarding drilling. He stated that the current ordinance does not allow this activity and that if someone wanted to drill, the current ordinance would have to be modified or they would have to seek a variance.
18. Commissioner Hall informed the Board of a new blood pressure machine at the library for public use.

19. Commissioner Barfield requested a workshop in February to discuss policies for the recently approved non ad valorem tax assessment for subdivisions to improve facilities. The workshop was set for Wednesday, February 5th at 6 pm.
20. **On motion by Commissioner Walker, seconded by Commissioner Fulford and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned.**

**Board of County Commissioners
Jefferson County, Florida**

J.T. Surles, Chairman

ATTEST:

Kirk Reams, Clerk of Court