

**JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

**Regular Session**

**November 5, 2020**

**6:00 P.M.**

The Board met this date in regular session. Present were Chair JT Surles, 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 Surles called the meeting order. Commissioner Fulford led the invocation and pledge of allegiance.
2. Chairman Surles introduced Emergency Management Director Paula Carroll and her assistant Kayla Kinsey and thanked them for being such gracious hosts and allowing Board meetings at the Emergency Operations Center during the pandemic.
3. Ryan Asmus with FDOT gave an update on the FDOT M-CORES task force and stated the final report would be delivered to the Governor, Speaker of the House and President of the Senate. Citizen Paul Henry inquired if a “no build” was off the table, to which Mr. Asmus replied that option was included in the report.
4. County Coordinator Parrish Barwick introduced the new Veterans Services Officer, Mr. Alvin Swilley. Mr. Swilley introduced himself to the Board and stated he would be in Jefferson County on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 9 am to 4 pm.
5. **On motion by Commissioner Walker, seconded by Commissioner Barfield and unanimously carried, the consent agenda—consisting of the approval of the agenda, General Fund/Transportation Vouchers and BOCC Minutes for the 10/13/2020 and 10/15/2020 Sessions—was approved.**
6. Planning Official Shannon Metty introduced the Jefferson County Broadband RFP item. She stated that the proposal from Lumen/CenturyLink had been evaluated and her recommendation was to move forward with the planning stages. **On motion by Commissioner Barfield, seconded by Commissioner Hall and unanimously carried, the Board approved the committee recommendation to move forward with negotiating.**
7. Clerk of Court Kirk Reams introduced the Jefferson County CARES update item. David Jahosky, with GSG, stated the past week the program for individuals and business assistance was closed out, with 41 applications for individuals and 50 applications for businesses. He stated he would be evaluating these and getting back with the committee comprised of Clerk of Court Kirk Reams and Property Appraiser Angela Gray. He stated the initial expectation is that \$925,000 would be utilized for the business assistance program and the goal was to have this before the Board in early December. Property Appraiser stated there was enough money for a second phase for “new businesses” given the property documentation is provided. Commissioner Barfield inquired why businesses were eligible for \$8,000 but non-profits were only eligible for \$5,000, to which Mrs. Gray stated non-profits could fall into both pots of money if they meet the requirements. Commissioner Barfield stated she would like for businesses and non-profits be in good standing with both the state and the Internal Revenue Service. Commissioner Hall inquired if churches and/or synagogues were eligible, to which Mrs. Gray responded in the affirmative, given the proper documentation and defined usage of the funds. **On motion by Commissioner Barfield, seconded by Commissioner Walker and unanimously carried, the Board approved the expansion of the pool for new businesses and non-profits.**
8. County Attorney Scott Shirley introduced the RFP discussion and noted it was for two different aspects at the Wacissa River Park. The first was to look at existing land and

evaluate for additional park improvements; the second is to search for new parcels. It was noted that the RFP notified bidders that the property immediately adjacent is not available and also that this is an entirely planning grant. **On motion by Commissioner Walker, seconded by Commissioner Barfield and unanimously carried, the Board approved advertising the RFP.**

9. Citizen Paul Henry congratulated Chairman Surles and Clerk of Court Kirk Reams on their recent re-elections. He also thanked the Board for having no mask mandate and cited different statistics from the CDC website.
10. Citizen Frank Brovant brought the issue of the speed bumps on Ebenezer Road before the Board and inquired what the process was for determining they were needed. Commissioner Walker stated the many residents had requested speed bumps over the years and some people have requested that even more be installed on this road. Mr. Brovant requested that if speed bumps were going remain they at least be appropriate for a 35 mph road with ample signage. Commissioner Hall stated speeding on this road had been an issue ever since it was paved and County Coordinator Parrish Barwick stated that safety was more important than the inconvenience of the bumps.
11. Property Appraiser Angela Gray and Chairman JT Surles thanked outgoing Commissioner Fulford for his service. Clerk of Court Kirk Reams also thanked Commissioner Fulford and stated the installation of the new Commissioner as well as the election of the new Chair and Vice-Chair would take place at the next meeting. County Coordinator Barwick and County Attorney Shirley also thanked Commissioner Fulford.
12. County Attorney Shirley stated that the Valley View non-ad valorem special assessment needed to be on the agenda for the next meeting. He stated a vote was held on the 25<sup>th</sup> but they would need to re-do the resolution of intent. He also stated this would need to be advertised twice.
13. Commissioners Hall, Walker and Barfield thanked Commissioner Fulford for his service. Commissioner Fulford stated his appreciation for all of the kind words and then provided an update on the Regional Landfill. He stated a new representative from the County would be needed to fill his spot and that it was a very important time as they are planning to close the initial cell (which lasted 20 years) and build a second cell that is expected to last 40 years. He noted that all of the money to close is in savings and most of the money for the expansion is in reserves as well. Commissioner Fulford closed by again thanking the Commissioners and stated he had enjoyed serving his community.
14. **On motion by Commissioner Walker, seconded by Commissioner Hall and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned.**

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

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J.T. Surles, Chairman

ATTEST:

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Kirk Reams, Clerk of Court