

**JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**  
**Regular Session**  
**March 18, 2021**  
**6:00 P.M.**

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

1. Chairman Walker called the meeting order and led the invocation and pledge of allegiance.
2. Commission Barfield introduced Melissa McKinley, County Commissioner from Palm Beach County and also current Chair of Florida Association of Counties. Ms. McKinley invited the Commissioners to stop by the FAC office and utilize their resources.
3. Planning Official Shannon Metty introduced Christine Shepard with The Nature Conservancy. She gave a presentation on FEMA community rating system points and stated the Jefferson County currently had 510 points, but could potentially earn an additional 1130 CRS open space points, which would improve us by two classifications and save 10% on flood insurance.
4. **On motion by Commissioner Surles, seconded by Commissioner Hall and unanimously carried, the consent agenda—consisting of the approval of the agenda, General Fund/Transportation/Road Bond Vouchers and minutes for the 3/4/21 regular session—was approved.**
5. County Attorney Scott Shirley introduced the Safe Rider final lease agreement for a nearly two-year term (expiring in December 2022). **On motion by Commissioner Surles, seconded by Commissioner Barfield and unanimously carried, the Board approved the lease agreement.**
6. Commissioner Tuten introduced the lease agreement with Pop's Sanitation and stated that Attorney Shirley wrote up the lease agreement based largely on the Safe Rider lease. Citizen Phil Calandra addressed the Board regarding several questions he had with the lease. Commissioner Barfield inquired about where trash trucks would be parked. **On motion by Commissioner Barfield, seconded by Commissioner Surles and unanimously carried, the Board approved the lease with the language cleaned up in the contract by Attorney Shirley.**
7. Commissioner Barfield introduced the engineering RFP item and stated she would like to move forward in bidding out these services. **Commissioner Barfield made a motion to move forward with the RFP to which Commissioner Hall seconded. The motion failed 2 to 3 (Surles, Tuten and Walker opposed).**
8. Clerk of Court Kirk Reams introduced the Road Bond item and stated that he had been examining the 2012 Road Bond to see if the County had the ability to refinance or extend. He noted that since the Board was not at the halfway point that the penalty assessed would outweigh any savings due to improved rates. He stated that a third bond for about \$3 million in construction costs would be around \$180,000 to \$185,000 in debt

service. He stated that the first two bonds had paved 99-100 miles and that the Road Department was now totally funded by gas tax and received nothing from ad valorem revenue. County Coordinator Barwick stated that if we move forward with a third bond, the road department had a track record of showing the money will be used efficiently. Clerk Reams stated that the note for the jail had recently been satisfied (a cost of around \$264,000/year) and noted it would not necessarily be the same funds used to pay the jail note that would be used for the third bond. Commissioner Barfield asked to see financial info on current bonds. Chairman Walker stated the Board should see if the City of Monticello wanted to pledge their money from the 5 cent gas tax to participate with this round of paving with the bond. Clerk Reams stated he would provide the requested info and bring back to the next meeting for Board approval.

9. Commissioner Barfield introduced the Solid Waste Director item and stated that current Director Beth Letchworth would be retiring in September. County Coordinator Barwick stated that the first step would be agreeing what this position does before it was advertised.
10. Citizen Angela Perry stated that nothing had been paved in Lamont and wanted to make sure that JC Lee Road was on the top of the list. Commissioners Walker and Surles both stressed that this road was a priority.
11. Citizen Phil Calandra inquired about a termination clause in the Pop's Sanitation contract, to which Commissioner Tuten stated he was not worried.
12. Planning Official Shannon Metty praised County Engineer Josh Baxley with Dewberry for his assistance this week. She also noted that Building Official James Kaufman had been out and would likely be out an additional six weeks or so.
13. Commissioner Walker requested that an item for the Lamont Park be placed on the next agenda.
14. Clerk of Court Kirk Reams stated the City of Monticello desired a joint meeting to be held on the 30<sup>th</sup> regarding sewer expansion. He stated that there would be a pre-meeting with representatives of the County and City to discuss.
15. Clerk Reams noted that an additional \$2.7-2.8 million in CARES funding would be on its way and recommended reconstituting the original work group on how to spend these funds. He noted that one category could be used for broadband and/or sewer. Commissioner Barfield expressed her desire to keep the Sheriff's communications and broadband as the top priorities.
16. Commissioner Tuten provided an update on the Bassett Dairy collection site and stated collection would be extended for another 4-5 months to review utilization.
17. Commissioner Barfield expressed concerns with the A Building sump pump and water intrusion. Clerk of Court Reams stated the next round of grant funding would address waterproofing the east side like the west had already been done.
18. Commissioner Barfield asked the Board to consider a Capital Improvement plan. Clerk of Court Kirk Reams and Attorney Scott Shirley stated this was a function of planning.

County Coordinator Parrish Barwick stated he would get with Planning Official Shannon Metty to work on this item.

19. Commissioner Barfield inquired about the homeschoolers' lease of the Water Street Building (old Elections Office). Mrs. Metty stated that she was working with Supervisor of Elections Marty Bishop to get the remainder of his stuff out of the building and stated that the building should be ready by April 1<sup>st</sup>. It was noted that the first month's rent would be waived.
20. Commissioner Barfield and Commissioner Hall expressed interest in a spot audit of the CARES funding. Commissioner Surles stated he would like to know the cost before committing. This item was placed on the next agenda.
21. Commissioner Barfield provided the Board with an update from the recent CRTPA meeting and noted that with regards to MCORES to ideas floating around were to take Jefferson County out of the plan but also to do away with the toll system altogether.
22. Commissioner Hall inquired if anything had been done for recently deceased county employee Greg Campbell, to which Solid Waste employee Robbie Hall replied in the affirmative. Commissioner Hall also complimented the soccer program at the Recreation Park.
23. **On motion by Commissioner Surles, seconded by Commissioner Hall and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned.**

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

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Stephen Walker, Chairman

ATTEST:

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Kirk Reams, Clerk of Court