

JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
Regular Session
July 15, 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 to order and led the invocation and pledge of allegiance.
2. Lucille Jones, owner/proprietor of Lucille's Kitchen, introduced herself to the Board and invited the Board to visit Lloyd for samples on August 14th at 11 am.
3. **Commissioner Surles made a motion to approve the consent agenda—consisting of the General Fund and Transportation Vouchers, Statewide Mutual Agreement, Jail-Re-Roof Contract and Budget Amendment for Clerk of Court and Sheriff's Offices—to which Commissioner Barfield seconded for discussion.** Commissioner Barfield requested that the budget amendment item (3e) be pulled from the Consent Agenda for discussion. In addition, it was requested that General Business item (4e) be moved to the front of the agenda. **Commissioner Surles amended his earlier motion to reflect the above and Commissioner Barfield seconded the amended motion. The motion was unanimously carried.**
4. Auditor Chris Moran, with Moran & Smith, discussed his audit progress and explained the carry forward/budget amendment item that was initially on the consent agenda. The Board scheduled a workshop to discuss the audit for August 19th at 5:30 pm, prior to the 6:00 pm Regular Session. **On motion by Commissioner Hall, seconded by Commissioner Surles and unanimously carried, the Board approved consent agenda item (e), budget amendment for the Clerk and Sheriff's Offices.**
5. Attorney Scott Shirley introduced the Aucilla Shores private roads discussion. He noted that the person that requested this item had asked that it be postponed and suggested the Board set a workshop to discuss the issue with citizens in the area. It was the consensus of the Board to set the meeting for 6 pm on August 26th at the Jefferson County Courthouse. Citizen Paul Henry requested that a Zoom link be included in the notification letter being mailed to residents.
6. Attorney Shirley introduced the second public hearing on the moratorium on issuing temporary use permits (#2021-071521-01). He noted that the first reading was on June 28th, 2021. The public provided input on the ordinance. Mr. Barrington requested that the Board please allow him to have two events he already had planned: July 24th-25th and August 1st. Sheriff McNeill stated he would have two deputies to manage traffic if the events were approved. **On motion by Commissioner Hall, seconded by Commissioner Barfield and unanimously carried, the Board approved the moratorium as stated but allowing the two events referenced above to be held. Commissioner Walker closed the public hearing.**
7. Commissioner Barfield introduced the temporary use event rough draft. Attorney Shirley discussed different considerations, such as if the promotor would apply for the permit versus the property owner and also who would get the citation/what the repercussions would be. He noted that there is a difference between inadvertently violating the rules versus intentionally

doing so and noted there could be misdemeanor charges and/or fines attached to violations. Attorney Shirley said that, in its present state, the draft said if the noise level was over the threshold for 15 minutes in aggregate, it would count as a violation. Chair Walker stated if the decibel level was crossed, he felt an automatic violation should be in order. It was the consensus of the Board to change it from 15 minutes to 5 minutes. It was also the consensus to change the time to sunset in the draft. Citizen David Lee stated his belief that vendors/promoters should have a business license. Attorney Shirley stated he would make the recommended change then begin the public hearing process.

8. Planning Official Shannon Metty introduced the American Rescue Act Funding discussion. She stated Jefferson County was awarded \$2.8 million from the American Rescue Act and noted it was similar to the CARES Act. She asked the Board to be thinking of how to best use these funds. Chair Walker stated he had heard about first responders receiving \$1000 and that he would like a one-time bonus of \$1000 to all other county employees. **On motion by Commissioner Surles, seconded by Commissioner Hall and unanimously carried, the Board approved a one-time bonus of \$1000 to all county employees.**
9. Mrs. Metty also noted the procurement of administration consulting services related to the American Rescue Act would be necessary. She said she was putting together an RFP for a consultant to help manage the funds and that this was just an informational item at this time.
10. Clerk of Court Kirk Reams provided an update on the Boston Highway Bridge award. He noted that Anderson Columbia was the low bidder at \$189,000, but the budget was previously \$101,000. He further added that he had worked with County Engineering firm Dewberry to trim the project down by having the headwalls removed, but rather than accept the trimmed down project, FDOT awarded the county the additional \$88,000 needed. **On motion by Commissioner Barfield, seconded by Commissioner Tuten and unanimously carried, the Board approved Anderson Columbia as the low bidder.**
11. Clerk of Court Kirk Reams requested budget workshops on the following Thursdays at 5:30 pm as needed: July 29th, August 5th, August 12th, August 19th and August 26th. He also stated that based on the TRIM calendar, the tentative budget hearing would be September 16th at 5:30 pm and the final hearing on September 27th at 5:30 pm. Clerk Reams noted that revenue estimates are trickling in from the state, but he believes the 7.95 millage rate will keep the County in great fiscal shape. The current rollback rate is 7.937, but Mr. Reams recommended moving forward with a 7.95 millage rate because the county can always lower the millage rate but cannot increase it after it is advertised. **On motion by Commissioner Surles, seconded by Commissioner Tuten and unanimously carried, the Board approved 7.95 as the preliminary millage rate.**
12. Attorney Scott Shirley presented the Board with the settlement agreement with Santander Bank related to the Capital Trucks bankruptcy. He noted that the County had already received \$147,000 from selling the trucks per the bankruptcy proceedings and that we would have to pay the \$147,000 plus an additional \$55,000 out of general revenue to settle. **On motion by Commissioner Barfield, seconded by Commissioner Surles and unanimously carried, the Board approved the settlement.**
13. Attorney Shirley presented the Memorandum of Understanding pertaining to the Road Bond between the City of Monticello and the County. **On motion by Commissioner Surles, seconded by Commissioner Hall and unanimously carried, the Board approved the MOU.**

14. Attorney Shirley presented the Non-Ad Valorem Special Assessment agreement between the County and the Property Appraiser. On motion by Commissioner Barfield, seconded by Commissioner Surles and unanimously carried, the Board approved the NASA agreement. Clerk of Court Kirk Reams asked the Board that—since so many people had fronted money for the Valley View project—if the Board could front the remainder of the amount in order to get the project started. **On motion by Commissioner Surles, seconded by Commissioner Barfield and unanimously carried, the Board approved fronting the remainder of the money.**
15. Commissioner Barfield introduced the Emergency Connectivity Fund item and stated it was a placeholder until she could get more information. She stated that Verizon had a digital inclusion plan for low income households, but believed the County would have to purchase the equipment. She requested this item be tabled to the next agenda so she could gather more information.
16. Citizen Paul Henry stated he had been reviewing the Solid Waste numbers and requested being placed on the agenda for the August 5th meeting to give a presentation to the Board.
17. County Coordinator Parrish Barwick requested the Commissioners to work on their roads list for the upcoming bond paving projects. Clerk Reams stated he would email the current list to the Commissioners.
18. Planning Official Metty noted that the Board would need to know how it intended to spend the American Recovery Act money by the end of August.
19. Commissioner Barfield informed the Board that her follow-up call with Sands Consulting was very productive and that they were going ton arrow down the study to provide the highest/best parcels for the county to consider buying. She also clarified with them that the two-mile radius should be along the river and homesteaded properties should not be included.
20. **On motion by Commissioner Surles, seconded by Commissioner Hall and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned.**

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

Stephen Walker, Chairman

ATTEST:

Kirk Reams, Clerk of Court