

JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
Regular Session
June 17, 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. Watermelon Queen Isabella Gray and 1st runner up Esther Fulford discussed the upcoming festivities of the Watermelon Festival.
3. **On motion by Commissioner Surles, seconded by Commissioner Hall and unanimously carried, the consent agenda—consisting of the General Fund and Transportation Vouchers, Minutes from the May 20, 2021 and June 3, 2021 Regular Sessions and Property Appraiser CARES Act Reimbursement—was approved.**
4. Commissioner Tuten introduced the Aucilla Shores private road discussion. Citizen Mike Robinson addressed the Board and discussed the on-going road issues in his community. Other citizens from Aucilla Shores addressed the Board and requested its help. The Board requested County Attorney Scott Shirley get with the citizens of the Aucilla Shores community to discuss/determine specific options to remedy the situation.
5. It was the consensus of the Board to move forward with the Economic Development Committee's Iron Man project recommendations.
6. Clerk of Court Kirk Reams introduced the Boston Highway Bridge SCOP bid award item. He and County Engineer Josh Baxley explained to the Board that all of the bids came in very high due to increased material costs. Mr. Baxley stated his intention to go back to FDOT to see if the project could be modified in order to fit within the budget. It was the consensus of the Board for Mr. Baxley to move forward.
7. Planning Official Shannon Metty introduced the Enterprise Florida Grant item. She stated this grant would help us lay out what properties would be best for economic development in the county. On motion by Commissioner Hall, seconded by Commissioner Surles and unanimously carried, the Board approved moving forward in applying for the grant.
8. Planning Official Shannon Metty introduced the School Board Jumbo-Tron item. After discussion, **Commissioner Hall motioned to give the School Board a one-time contribution of \$10,000 towards the Jumbo-Tron. Commissioner Barfield seconded for discussion. The motion carried 3 to 2 (Surles and Tuten opposed).**
9. Planning Official Shannon Metty introduced the Gulf Power project updates item. Mrs. Metty explained that the Board originally had set aside \$130,000 for the Thompson Valley Community Center, but due to increase materials/constructions costs the number to construct the building has nearly tripled. Commissioner Hall recommended a

workshop to address this item. Mrs. Metty also provided an update on the roof top solar/lighting item.

10. Planning Official Shannon Metty introduced the major development application for Big Wood Plantation. She noted the developer had acquired 640 acres with the intent of breaking the land into 35 acre parcels. Commissioner Barfield expressed concern with the amount of wetlands in the proposed development. **On motion by Commissioner Barfield, seconded by Commissioner Surles and unanimously carried, the Board voted against the development application.** The Board requested the developer come back before the Board with a proposal that did not have any construction in the wetlands.
11. Planning Official Shannon Metty introduced the major development application for Evans Corner. She noted the developer had acquired 480 acres and intended to break into approximately 20-acre parcels, primarily for hunting. The Board expressed similar concerns to the prior item, as some of the land impacted by the development were wetlands. On motion by Commissioner Surles, seconded by Commissioner Tuten and carried 4 to 1 (Barfield opposed), the Board approved the development application, with the stipulation that the wetlands be protected.
12. County Coordinator Parrish Barwick provided an update on road projects that were included in the packet.
13. **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