

# **JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

## **Regular Session**

**Thursday, May 1st, 2025**

**9 AM**

The Board met on this date in Budget and Regular Session. Chairman Austin Hosford, Commissioners JT Surles, Jessica Gramling, Ben White, and Gene Hall were present. Clerk Trey Hightower, County Manager Shannon Metty, HR Director Renee Long, County Attorney Evan Rosenthal, Assistant County Attorney Kirsten Mood, and County Budget Officer Gus Rojas were also present.

The Jefferson County Board commissioners meeting on May 1, 2025, covered several key points. The board approved the agenda with the mosquito control item tabled for further negotiation. Commissioner White announced his second annual first responders' bash. The board discussed the need for a \$25,000 match for city lift stations' generators, serving county residents. The county engineer reported on ongoing projects, including the final pay request for the Waukeelah Highway project, and the need for additional equipment. The board also considered the impact of potential legislative changes on sales tax and fuel tax revenues.

### **1. 9AM Call to Order, Invocation, Pledge of Allegiance**

### **2. Approval of the Agenda**

- County Manager Shannon Metty proposes removing Item 6C, Mosquito Control Building, from the agenda.
- **Commissioner Surles motions to remove Item 6C from the agenda, seconded by Commissioner Gramling and unanimously passed by the board.**

### **3. Public Announcements, Presentations, and Awards**

- Commissioner Surles wishes Commissioner Gramling a happy birthday.
- Commissioner White is hosting a first responders party open to the public. It is free of charge, and they will be raising money for Matt Tuten.

### **4. Citizens Request and Input on Non-Agenda Items**

- Tom Dodd
  - Requests an update on the pickleball courts and Ridge Road.
  - Thanks the board for private road debris pickup and reminds them that hurricane season is approaching.
  - Shannon Metty confirms a pickleball bid will be out soon and mentions the need for a comprehensive review on the mosquito control issue.

### **5. Consent Agenda**

- **Commissioner Gramling motions to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Commissioner Hall and unanimously passed by the board.**

### **6. General Business**

#### **a. Insurance Broker Historical Information**

- Presentation provided by Gus Rojas.
- Historical breakdown of RFQ. He asks if the board has any questions regarding the information provided. No questions.

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### **b. Sheriff DMS Tower MOU**

- Presentation provided by Assistant County Attorney Kirsten Mood.
- MOU with the Department of Management Services and the sheriff for the replacement of the statewide law enforcement response tower that is on the county's property. The sheriff is moving forward with the permitting there.
- **Commissioner Surles motions to approve, seconded by Commissioner White and unanimously passed by the board.**
- Commissioner Hall asks what the financial source of this project is.
- The sheriff responds that the funds are being provided by the state. This MOU will make our communication safer and more efficient.

### **c. Fuel Tax Ordinance**

- This is a request to approve the extension of fuel taxes to Dec 31, 2036, to fund road department operations.
- **Commissioner Surles motions to approve, seconded by Commissioner White and unanimously passed by the board.**

### **d. City Generator for Lift Stations within the County Discussion**

- Shannon Metty discusses the city's application for HMGP grants for generators for six lift stations, three of which are within the county.
- The city is working with Florida Commerce to apply for a rural infrastructure grant and seeks a match from the county. The city can contribute \$25,000.
- Chairman Hosford inquires if we can pull the funds from Gulf Consortium.
- Counsel Evan Rosenthal replies that he will need to explore that further. It would be a lengthy process: at least a year long.
- Commissioner Surles asks whether they would reimburse us and how many county residents are served off those list stations.
- Shannon Metty replies that she is not sure. We get \$50,000 from the federal government for infrastructure. She will research it more if the board is interested.
- Chairman Hosford requests a ballpark amount.
- Shannon Metty responds it is up to the board's discretion: potentially \$25,000.
- Commissioner Hall concurs that this is a great opportunity.
- Shannon Metty states that she is working on a plan regarding how to utilize the consortium funding.
- Chairman states that no further action should be taken until the comprehensive plan and land development code is taken care of.

### **7. Clerk of Courts**

### **8. County Engineer**

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- Grant application turned in with comments back from Department of Transportation.
- They are due by May 9<sup>th</sup>, but he is trying to get them back by the 5<sup>th</sup>.
- Provides an update on Boston and Waukeena Highway. Provides the final pay request for Waukeena Highway. There is \$2,408.60 left in the grant; they are asking for \$25,115.71, which will leave the county with \$22,707.11.
- **Commissioner Surles motions to pay the final overage, seconded by Commissioner Gramling. It is not brought to a vote.**
- Evan Rosenthal proposes that this information be brought to the board before the meeting instead of being introduced cold. Board consensus is all that is necessary for today, which is granted.
- Commissioner Hall asks about the paving schedule on Waukeena Highway from Nash to Rabon Road.
- The County Engineer replies that it is one of the applications we have now, and we should know by June.

### 9. County Attorney

- Evan Rosenthal submitted a request for David Theriac to represent the county, and it was denied by insurance. Bill Gorder has been appointed to represent the county in that case.

### 10. County Manager

- Chris Morris—WSB
  - Provides an update on road bonds.
  - Wolf Creek Bridge is complete.
  - Regarding the Boston Culvert replacement, there is a lot of red tape.
  - Ashville Highway has been closed out at no additional cost to the county.
  - Old Lloyd Road is out to bid. 180-day contract.
  - Farm Road Phase II grant application is submitted.
- Shannon Metty has a meeting next week with Jefferson Community Water.

### 11. County Commissioners

- Commissioner Gramling requests an update on kennels.
- Shannon Metty responds that the electrician has come out, and the plumber is scheduled. The plumber was the slowest one to provide quotes, but they'll be working with the city to ensure that we connect into the city. We should have the HVAC installed soon and hopefully be open within the next couple of weeks.
- Commissioner Surles states that the EMS ambulance department came up short on their request to the state for equipment. He wants to add this item to the future agenda to help them out.

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- Chairman Hosford requests an update on the Old Lloyd 90 streetlight. There is no update. He also follows up on the letter to deny House Bills brought up at the previous meeting and ask counsel if they can potentially track bills that will impact the county.
- Counsel informs the Chairman that their firm provides legislative tracking, but it is not included in the contract with Jefferson County. He will work on a proposal.

**Budget Workshop Directly Follows**