

JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
Regular Session
Thursday, September 11th, 2025
5:01 PM

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

At the September 11, 2025, Jefferson County Board of County Commissioners meeting, the board held a public hearing to address the tentative millage rate and FY 25/26 budget. After discussion, the board unanimously adopted the rollback millage rate of 7.6529 and approved a tentative budget totaling \$36,937,057. The final budget hearing was scheduled for Wednesday, September 24 at 5:01 PM. The agenda was approved, followed by presentations introducing a new 4H Agent and updates from Tall Timbers. During general business, the board unanimously approved items including the Auditor Selection, Fire Assessment, Solid Waste, Aucilla Shores, Valley View, NWF, and a revised Work Authorization Agreement. The GIS Agreement was approved conditionally pending grant verification. Updates were provided by the County Attorney on the Truck Stop litigation, and the County Manager reported a grant submission for park lighting. Commissioner Hall requested a future agenda item regarding Wacissa bathrooms, and the meeting ended with a unanimous vote to adjourn.

- 1. 5:01 PM Call to Order, Invocation, Pledge of Allegiance (00:00:14)**
- 2. Public Hearing on Tentative Millage and Budget FY 25/26 (00:01:25)**
 - a. Shannon Metty clarifies the tentative millage rate (7.826) and total county budget, including appropriated expenditures and reserves, and constitutional special revenue funds.
 - b. **Commissioner White motions to approve, seconded by Commissioner Gramling and unanimously approved by the board.**
 - c. **Commissioner Hall motions to close the public hearing, seconded by Commissioner Gramling and unanimously approved by the board.**
 - d. Chairman Hosford states that Florida Statutes require that the Board address the tentative millage rate before addressing the tentative budget. It is also required to vote on the millage rate and the budget separately.
 - e. **Commissioner Surles motions to approve the rollback rate of 7.6529, seconded by Commissioner Gramling and unanimously approved by the board.**
 - f. Commissioner Surles inquires about the distinction between the rollback and tentative millage rate.
 - g. Phil Vandyne asks about the intent of increasing the rollback.
 - h. **Commissioner Surles motions to adopt the resolution presented today, approving Board of County Commissioners FY 25/26, tentative county budget as presented by the County Manager, seconded by Commissioner Gramling and unanimously approved by the board.**

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- i. Counsel prompts Shannon Metty to read the revised total budget amount considering the Board's decision to adopt the rollback.
 - j. Shannon Metty states that the Board of County Commissioners of Jefferson County tentative county-wide millage rate is 7.6529 mills, which represents the county-wide rollback rate. The Board of County Commissioners is proposing to adopt a budget that totals \$36,937,057 for appropriated expenditures and reserves. The total budget includes interfund transfers, transfers to constitutional offers, and constitutional officers' special revenue funds.
 - k. **Commissioner Surles motions to move the second final budget hearing and general business to Wednesday, September 24 at 5:01 PM, seconded by Commissioner Gramling and unanimously approved by the board.**
- 3. Approval of the Agenda (00:12:04)**
- a. **Commissioner Surles motions to approve the agenda, seconded by Commissioner White and unanimously approved by the board.**
- 4. Public Announcements, Presentations, Awards (00:12:32)**
- a. Shannon Metty introduces Dr. Camille Louis as the new 4H Director.
 - b. Ben Naselius presents on behalf of Tall Timbers.
- 5. Citizens' Request & Input on Non-Agenda Items (00:26:11)**
- a. Rose Marie speaks on Items A, C and D on the Consent Agenda. She is in support of every single item related to TDC.
- 6. Consent Agenda (00:27:40)**
- a. **Commissioner Surles motions to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Commissioner White and unanimously approved by the board.**
- 7. General Business (00:28:10)**
- a. **Auditor Selection**
 - i. **Commissioner Surles motion to approve the Auditor Selection being Moran & Smith LLP, seconded by Commissioner Hall and unanimously approved by the board.**
 - b. **Fire Assessment**
 - i. Counsel states the rates are proposed to stay the same as last year, and they are recommending approval.
 - ii. **Commissioner Gramling motions to approve the Fire Assessment Item, seconded by Commissioner Surles and unanimously approved by the board.**
 - c. **Solid Waste**
 - i. **Commissioner White motions to approve the Solid Waste Item, seconded by Commissioner Gramling and unanimously approved by the board.**
 - d. **Aucilla Shores**

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- i. Commissioner Gramling motions to approve the Aucilla Shores Item, seconded by Commissioner Surles and unanimously approved by the board.**

e. Valley View

- i. Commissioner Surles motions to approve the Valley View Item, seconded by Commissioner White and unanimously approved by the board.**

f. NWF

- i. Shannon Metty explains that this is the Opioid Agreement, which requires an annual plan.**
- ii. Commissioner Surles motions to approve the NWF Item, seconded by Commissioner Gramling and unanimously approved by the board.**

g. Work Authorization

- i. Shannon Metty highlights a change to the agenda: in our Work Authorization Agreement, the charges have increased for their hourly rates for employees. Additionally, there is a note about liability insurance.**
- ii. Counsel recommends approving this Work Authorization subject to the two changes—the hourly rates, and the removal of the limitation on liability.**
- iii. Commissioner Gramling motions to approve the Work Authorization including two changes as recommended by Counsel, seconded by Commissioner Hall and unanimously approved by the board.**

h. GIS Agreement

- i. Commissioner Surles motions to approve the GIS Agreement, seconded by Commissioner White.**
- ii. Counsel highlights issues with the GIS Agreement Item—being that it has not been reviewed in detail, and it has been procured by a regional 911 entity. This contract also calls for the county to pay the consultant \$220,000 for year one services, and there is no grant agreement in place at this point.**
- iii. Commissioner Surles amends his motion to request Counsel investigate the item further. It is not brought to a vote.**
- iv. Commissioner Surles amends his motion, approving the GIS Agreement subject to the county verifying the grant agreement in place, seconded by Commissioner White and unanimously approved by the board.**

8. Clerk of Court (00:37:18)

9. County Engineer (00:37:30)

10. County Attorney (00:37:30)

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- a. The Truck Stop litigation received a favorable order which denied Solero's appeal. Since that time, Solero has filed a motion for rehearing, asking the Court to reconsider its decision.

11. County Manager (00:38:21)

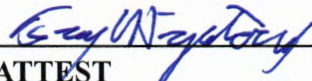
- a. The grant for the lighting at the park has been submitted.

12. County Commissioners (00:38:34)

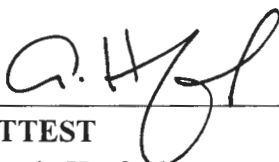
- a. Commissioner Hall
 - i. Requests update on the bathrooms in Wacissa being added to the agenda for the next meeting.

13. Adjourn (00:39:22)

- a. Commissioner Surles motions to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner White and unanimously approved by the board.



ATTEST
Cecil Trey Hightower
Clerk of the Circuit Court



ATTEST
Austin Hosford
Chairman