

JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
Regular Session

Thursday, October 2nd, 2025

9:00 AM

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, and County Attorney Evan Rosenthal were also present.

The meeting began with prayer, pledge, and approval of the agenda. Announcements included David Wheeler passing his mosquito control test and Natalie Binder's departure as librarian director. A proposal was made to reopen the old jail museum for public tours. The board discussed a coding error in the Aucilla Shores assessment, affecting 30 parcels in 2023, 31 in 2024, and 31 in 2025, totaling \$14,758. Option three was approved to correct the error by assessing the properties for 2025 and future years. The board also approved a resolution to designate the planning department as the administrative authority for plat applications.

- 1. 9AM Call to Order, Invocation, Pledge of Allegiance (00:00:05)**
- 2. Approval of the Agenda (00:00:59)**
 - a. Commissioner Surles motions to approve the agenda, seconded by Commissioner White and unanimously approved by the board.**
- 3. Public Announcements, Presentations & Awards (00:01:13)**
 - a. David Wheeler has passed his mosquito control test.
 - b. Shannon Metty announces that Natalie Binder is leaving and will be missed.
 - c. Chairman Hosford expresses gratitude for Natalie's contributions to the library and community.
 - d. Natalie Binder thanks the community and expresses her love for the county. She mentions her new opportunity on Fort Myers and Pine Island, administering an archaeological site.
- 4. Citizens Request & Input on Non-Agenda Items (00:07:47)**
 - a. Tammy Brookins and Corie Watts request permission to reopen the old jail space as a resource center for tours.
 - b. Chairman Hosford discusses the need for legal and liability considerations before approving the request.
 - c. Shannon Metty discusses the potential for a for-profit model to benefit students.
 - d. Commissioner Surles motions to request the County Attorney to collaborate with staff to devise a solution, seconded by Commissioner Hall and unanimously approved by the board.**
- 5. Consent Agenda (00:16:08)**
 - a. Commissioner Surles motions to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Commissioner Gramling and unanimously approved by the board.**
- 6. General Business (00:16:30)**
 - a. Aucilla Shores Assessment**
 - i. Evan Rosenthal provides an update regarding a new state law affecting agriculturally classified land.

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- ii. A coding error led to the inadvertent exclusion of all agriculturally classified properties within the Aucilla Shores area from the assessments for 2023, 2024 and 2025.
- iii. Citizens to be Heard: Angela Gray, Marilyn Watson, Cheryl La-Vonne
- iv. **Commissioner Gramling motions to select option three to correct the error by assessing the properties for 2025 and future years, seconded by Commissioner Surles and unanimously approved by the board.**

b. Administrative Plat Approval

- i. Evan Rosenthal provides an update regarding a legislative change requiring the county to administratively review and approve applications for plats and replats.
- ii. **Commissioner Surles motions to approve the resolution, seconded by Commissioner Gramling.**
- iii. David Wheeler accepts the responsibility for reviewing those plats, making sure they are consistent with state law and the county's code, and issuing administrative approval.
- iv. Citizen to be Heard: Cheryl La-Vonne
- v. **Commissioner Surles amends his motion to include that David Wheeler provide a Planning Department update to the board on the first meeting of each month, seconded by Commissioner Gramling and unanimously approved by the board.**

7. Clerk of Court (00:41:07)

8. County Engineer (00:41:12)

- a. Provides updates on Boston Highway Phase I & II, Waukeenah, and Ashville Highway. He mentions the upcoming DOT applications and the potential impact on future projects.

9. County Attorney (00:42:53)

10. County Manager (00:42:57)

- a. Shannon Metty announces the submission of a grant for guardrail repairs and plans to look for additional grants for a splash pad and gym demolition.

11. County Commissioners (00:43:55)

- a. Commissioner Hall raises concern about the lack of emphasis on the demolition of the old gym in legislative delegation meetings.

12. Commissioner Surles discussed the importance of ensuring that all county roads within the right-of-way are being properly mowed.

13. Adjourn (00:47:55)

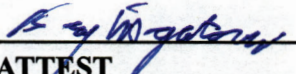
- a. **Commissioner Surles motions to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner White and unanimously approved by the board.**

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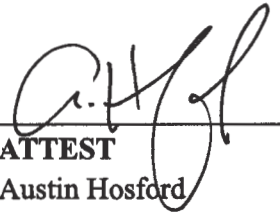
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ATTEST

Cecil Trey Hightower
Clerk of the Circuit Court



ATTEST

Austin Hosford
Chairman