

JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
Regular Session

Thursday, November 6, 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, County Attorney Evan Rosenthal, and Assistant County Attorney Kirsten Mood were also present.

At the November 6, 2025, BOCC meeting, the board approved the agenda and consent items unanimously and received returns of unspent FY 24/25 funds from the Sheriff's Office and Supervisor of Elections. Public comments focused on concerns about a propane facility and code enforcement questions. A key business item included updating insurance policy language to require legal documentation to verify dependents, which passed 4-1 after discussion over definitions and premium impacts. The board also received a Hurricane Helene debris reimbursement update, approving the use of returned unspent funds instead of submitting a waiver for additional reimbursement. Department updates followed, including infrastructure project statuses, upcoming budget and impact fee presentations, grant activity, and a new Deputy County Manager hire. Commissioners raised various local concerns and updates, and the meeting adjourned unanimously.

- 1. 9AM Call to Order, Invocation, Pledge of Allegiance (00:00:15)**
- 2. Approval of the Agenda (00:00:58)**
 - a. Commissioner Surles motions to approve the agenda, seconded by Commissioner White and unanimously approved by the board.**
- 3. Public Announcements, Presentations & Awards (00:01:20)**
 - a. Sheriff Mac McNeil presents two checks of unspent funds for FY 24/25. The Sheriff's Office will return \$77,034.43, and for the EOC, it will return \$28,396.51.**
 - b. Supervisor of Elections Michelle Milligan returns \$35,390.58 in unspent funds.**
- 4. Citizens Request and Input on Non-Agenda Items (00:03:41)**
 - a. Anita Howard expresses concerns about various propane facilities, including the one near her home. She requests that it be removed.**
 - b. Cindy Forehand asks about the code enforcement process.**
- 5. Consent Agenda (00:21:41)**
 - a. Commissioner White motions to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Commissioner Gramling and unanimously approved by the board.**
- 6. General Business (00:22:17)**
 - a. Standard Insurance Language Update**
 - i. Shannon Metty speaks to the common law marriage stipulations within CHP and the County's dental and vision insurance. The language update maintains that all dependents must be verified and have a relationship with the employee through a legal means of proof such as a birth or marriage certificate. This will be included in the personnel policy to avoid confusion.**

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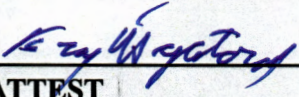
- ii. **Commissioner Surles motions to approve, seconded by Commissioner Hall. Commissioners White and Gramling vote in favor, while Chairman Hosford votes in opposition. Motion passes 4-1.**
 - iii. Chairman Hosford asks if this will lower our premiums. He maintains that the difference between a spouse and a domestic partner is common sense.
 - iv. Counsel explains that it is a standard policy decision.
 - v. Clerk Trey Hightower wants to have a uniform definition across the county as to what qualifies as a legal spouse and dependent.
- b. Hurricane Helene Reimbursement Update**
 - i. Shannon Metty provides an update on hurricane debris reimbursement. We initially received \$2.5 million from the state following an expedited grant application. The remainder left from the debris pickup is \$3.6 million, which we are still waiting for. Next step is to submit waiver to governor's office. It will go back into the general fund when we receive it.
 - ii. **Commissioner Gramling motions to utilize unspent funds presented at today's meeting rather than submitting the waiver, seconded by Commissioner Surles and unanimously approved by the board.**
- 7. Clerk of Court (00:36:15)**
- 8. County Engineer (00:36:28)**
 - a. Wolf Creek Bridge is out to bid. Finalizing proposal for Waukeelah Phase II. Boston Highway is finishing on time.
- 9. County Attorney (00:38:01)**
- 10. County Manager (00:38:05)**
 - a. Budget amendment will be presented on the 20th. T-Mobile grant has closed with one applicant. 250-year anniversary of the United States is approaching, and the TDC wants to celebrate with fireworks. Impact fees update will also be presented on the 20th. She has hired a Deputy Manager, Ron Russo, who will begin in December.
- 11. County Commissioners (00:41:54)**
 - a. Commissioner Hall requests Wacissa River bathroom pictures. Citizen approached him about a Westlake Road issue.
 - b. Commissioner Gramling requests an update on agreement for homeschoolers and Shrimp Lot.
 - c. Chairman Hosford speaks regarding the Economic Development Task Force.
 - d. Commissioner Surles expresses concern that legislature has taken home rule away from this board.
- 12. Adjourn (00:53:02)**
 - a. **Commissioner Surles motions to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Gramling and unanimously approved by the board.**

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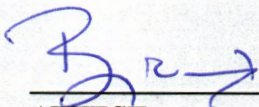
9:00 AM



ATTEST

Cecil Trey Hightower

Clerk of the Circuit Court



ATTEST

~~Austin Hosford~~ Ben White

Chairman