

# JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

## Regular Session

Thursday, January 15, 2026

6:00 PM

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

The Board unanimously approved the agenda and consent agenda, including adding a \$27,666.60 SHIP invoice, and heard public comments regarding alleged life safety concerns at the propane facility on Industrial Park Road, with citizens requesting inspections and board action. The board received an enterprise fleet presentation outlining the need to replace an aging and unreliable county vehicle fleet through a five-year leasing plan, received an update on planning for the community's 250th anniversary celebration, and commended the December Planning Department report. Updates were provided by the Clerk of Court regarding an audit extension request, the County Engineer on upcoming road work and DOT proposals, and the County Manager on completed pickleball courts, proposed hurricane debris funding, new staff hires, and a February meeting date change to a night meeting. Additional commissioner inquiries included county signage, FEMA funding, recycling, infrastructure projects, and other county concerns before the meeting was adjourned.

- 1. 6PM Call to Order, Invocation, Pledge of Allegiance (00:00:02)**
- 2. Approval of the Agenda (00:01:04)**
  - a. Commissioner Hosford motions to approve the agenda, seconded by Commissioner Surles and unanimously approved by the board.**
- 3. Public Announcements, Presentations & Awards (00:01:16)**
  - a. Cindy Pyburn**
    - i. Thanks the board for their hard work. Last month, regarding the senior center conversations, she felt empathetic for the vulnerable populations. She will serve as an advisory capacity for the Area of Aging Agency.**
- 4. Citizens Request & Input on Non-Agenda Items (00:03:55)**
  - a. Patricia Smith**
    - i. Provides the board with notice of what she believes to be life safety violations regarding the propane facility and 400 Industrial Park Road. Apologizes to the board for her previous frustration. She details the impact of the propane facility on her elderly father, including psychological and physical health risks. She has not seen enough action to protect the lives of the people who live in the area—requests board action.**
  - b. Anita Howard**
    - i. Urges the board to follow their elected duties by inspecting the propane facility.**
- 5. Consent Agenda (00:16:00)**
  - a. Shannon Metty adds the SHIP Invoice of \$ 27,666.60 to the Consent Agenda.**



## **JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

### **Regular Session**

**Thursday, January 15, 2026**

**6:00 PM**

- a. The pickleball courts are finished and in use. Historically, we have provided G-Fast funds for hurricane pickup, and they were neglected in this year's budget. She proposes a budget amendment to the February meeting and moving it to a night meeting.
- b. **Commissioner Surles motions to provide \$1500 to G-Fast, seconded by Commissioner Hall.**
- c. **Commissioner Surles amends his motion to include changing the date of the February 5 meeting to a night meeting, seconded by Commissioner Hall and unanimously approved by the board.**
- d. Our new Building Official, JT Ward, started working on Monday. On Tuesday, we have a new librarian, Emily Grosskopf, starting.

#### **11. County Commissioners (00:52:03)**

- a. Commissioner Hall inquires about a "Welcome to Jefferson County" sign.
- b. Commissioner Hosford mentions the graphic posted by our governor, emphasizing that our county received zero dollars through CDBG-DR (Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery) and RIF (Rural Infrastructure Fund) for infrastructure improvement. He requires an explanation as to why this happened.
- c. Shannon Metty responds the City of Monticello received \$14 million for their sewer, highlighting that our residents benefit from the sewer for the city. She states that although Jefferson County might not have been named specifically, it is a win for the county itself.
- d. Commissioner Hosford asks for an update on FEMA funds, to which Shannon Metty replies that it is in the Trump administration's hands to release the funds. He also requests an update on the proceedings regarding the former HR Director, and Evan Rosenthal replies that there is no update at this time.
- e. Commissioner Hosford asks for documentation regarding Montivilla contracting. He also asks for an update on Whippoorwill Hill Road and brings up the topic of wild dogs running at large in Lloyd and the need for an animal ordinance. Asks to bring back recycling and references the Lloyd dump site. Shannon Metty states she will bring it to the attendant's awareness. Commissioner Hosford calls attention to an airing on WCTV regarding Suwanee River.

#### **12. Adjourn (01:07:47)**

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

**JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

**Regular Session**

**Thursday, January 15, 2026**

**6:00 PM**



**ATTEST**

Cecil Trey Hightower

Clerk of the Circuit Court



**ATTEST**

Ben White

Chairman