

JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Regular Session

Thursday, February 5, 2026

6:00 PM

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

The Board convened at 6:00 p.m. and approved an amended agenda that included acceptance of the County Manager's resignation and severance agreement. During public comments, citizens addressed community growth, care for vulnerable populations, animal welfare, and opposition to a proposed county consolidation bill, after which the Board unanimously approved a resolution opposing consolidation and authorized its execution. The consent agenda and a \$2.09 million budget amendment to carry forward funds into the next fiscal year were approved, including allocations for transportation equipment, capital improvements, courthouse projects, and grants. The Board formally accepted the County Manager's resignation effective June 12, 2026, approved the severance agreement, and heard additional citizen comments. Other actions included acceptance of the FY 23/24 audit for submission to the state, approval of a burn ban with authorization for the fire chief to sign future bans pending code changes, adoption of the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan, approval to contract with multiple special magistrates for code enforcement hearings, and receipt of departmental updates before adjournment.

- 1. 6PM Call to Order, Invocation, Pledge of Allegiance**
- 2. Approval of the Agenda (00:01:17)**
 - a. Evan Rosenthal proposes an addition to the agenda, which is acceptance of the written offer of resignation and approval of severance agreement between Jefferson County and the County Manager.
 - b. Commissioner Hosford motions to approve, seconded by Commissioner Surlles and unanimously approved by the board.**
- 3. Public Announcements, Presentations & Awards (00:02:23)**
- 4. Citizens Request & Input on Non-Agenda Items (00:02:36)**
 - a. Jack Carswell
 - i. Addresses the differences in opinion amongst the audience members. He states that there is a growing population of children in our community, and they will be the future of Jefferson County.
 - b. Andrew Fisher
 - i. In June 2025, his wife was contacted regarding an elderly dog by an individual seeking guidance. It was taken into the care of the Humane Society. He speaks about the necessity of caring for vulnerable populations such as the elderly and animals.
 - c. Chris Tuten

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- c. **County Manager's Contract (00:25:16)**
- d. **Audit Presentation (00:26:05)**
 - i. Chris Moran – Moran & Smith
 - 1. Presents the audit for fiscal year 23/24.
 - 2. **Commissioner Gramling motions to send to the audit to the state as soon as it is finalized, seconded by Commissioner Surles and unanimously approved by the board.**
- e. **Burn Ban (00:33:30)**
 - i. **Commissioner Surles motions to approve, seconded by Commissioner Gramling.**
 - ii. Shannon Metty comments that because the burn ban is currently signed by the Chairman, and it is not a convenient process, she is seeking board direction on allowing the fire chief or management staff to implement future burn bans. Evan Rosenthal states that this would require code changes.
 - iii. **Commissioner Surles amends his motion to allow the chief to sign, seconded by Commissioner Gramling and unanimously approved by the board.**
- f. **CEMP Plan (00:34:31)**
 - i. Kristy Anderson, Emergency Management Director, introduces the CEMP Plan.
 - ii. **Commissioner Gramling motions to adopt, seconded by Commissioner Surles and unanimously approved by the board.**
- g. **RIF Grant (00:37:04)**
 - i. Commissioner Hall comments on this grant. No board action taken.
 - ii. Citizens to be Heard: Cay Curtis
- h. **Special Magistrate (00:39:39)**
 - i. Evan Rosenthal states that there is currently only one Special Magistrate under contract to handle code enforcement hearings; suggests multiple magistrates. Requests board direction.
 - ii. **Commissioner Surles motions to approve, seconded by Commissioner Hall and unanimously approved by the board.**
- i. **Planning Department (00:41:13)**
- 7. **Clerk of Court (00:48:47)**
 - a. Reports on budget tracking: he will bring monthly reports to the board on revenues and expenditures from the prior month. In the second meeting each month, commissioners will be provided with the report.
- 8. **County Engineer (00:49:49)**
 - a. Provides updates on Ashville Highway, Waukeenah Highway Phase II.
- 9. **County Attorney (00:53:39)**

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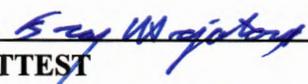
10. County Manager (00:53:45)

11. County Commissioners (00:53:49)

- a. Commissioner Hall requests clarification on the procurement policy for the janitorial services.

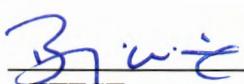
12. Adjourn

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



ATTEST

Cecil Trey Hightower
Clerk of the Circuit Court



ATTEST

Ben White
Chairman