

JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR SESSION
October 7, 2010

The Board met this date in Regular Session. Present were Chairman Danny Monroe, Commissioners Hines Boyd, Stephen Fulford, Eugene Hall and Felix "Skeet" Joyner, County Coordinator Roy Schleicher, Clerk of Court Kirk Reams, and County Attorney Buck Bird.

1. On motion by Commissioner Fulford, seconded by Commissioner Hall and unanimously carried, the Board approved the consent agenda, consisting of the minutes from the September 16, 2010 tentative budget hearing and the minutes from the September 28, 2010 final budget hearing.
2. Steven Minnis with Suwannee River Water Management District presented the Board with a check for payment in lieu of taxes for \$9,223.41.
3. Engineer Frank Darabi and Madison County Commissioner Reneta Parrish presented the Board with a refund check from the Aucilla Regional Landfill of \$116,750.
4. Dan Schall with Monticello Main Street presented the Board with a lease for the Old Jail facility. On motion by Commissioner Boyd, seconded by Commissioner Fulford and unanimously carried, the lease was approved.
5. County Coordinator Roy Schleicher presented the Board with Meridian's proposed changes to the Section 8 Housing Program, which were: decreasing occupancy standards to two heartbeats per bedroom and decreasing voucher payment standards from the current rate of 100% to 90% of the current Fair Market Rent (FMR). On motion by Commissioner Hall, seconded by Commissioner Fulford and unanimously carried, the proposed changes to Section 8 were approved.
6. County Coordinator Roy Schleicher presented a draft of the Private Dirt Road Repair Program. Commissioner Monroe commented that until the county got better with the county roads we already maintained, it was unforeseeable that the county could enter into an agreement like this with the current state of the department and its resources. Commissioner Joyner stated that the Board has previously taken the position of not competing with private companies. Commissioner Fulford responded that the county is already hiring outside contractors to do work it cannot do itself. Commissioner Boyd replied that the Board needed to do the right thing for people that pay taxes. He explained that nothing would be harmed by trying it and abandoning it if it did not work. He was not in favor of shoving it off to the side and forgetting about the issue. Citizen Chuck Sarkisian stated that the county's equipment was idle 20% of the time and that the county should put an exclusion in the policy for scope of work, in terms of not being in the road building business. Traci Wood with the Valley View Homeowners Association said that she would not be asking for help if it was not a serious matter. Commissioner Boyd responded that this was a serious problem that had to be resolved. Commissioner Joyner reiterated that there was a recent over-expenditure at the Road Department in the amount of \$500,000 and that a service could not be provided to private road citizens without making a profit, thus taxing county road residents to make up the difference. Commissioner Boyd asked the County Coordinator to continue to refine the program, to which Mr. Schleicher explained he would appreciate any comments/suggestions on the draft from the Commission.
7. County Coordinator Roy Schleicher presented the Board with a road grader replacement recommendation in favor of John Deere/Flint Equipment. This was the recommendation of the committee consisting of Commissioner Boyd, Mr. Schleicher, Assistant County Coordinator John McHugh and Road Superintendent David Harvey. Commissioner Fulford stated that this was not an equal

- comparison between the products and was concerned about the lack of a formal bid/RFP process. Mr. Schleicher stated that the county may need to put out the bid specs and go through the process again. Commissioner Fulford responded that the process seemed unfair as the Road Department had been primarily dealing with John Deere/Flint Equipment, so they were more familiar with what the county was looking for. He felt the county needed to clearly define what it wanted in terms of equipment and in terms of trade-ins. On motion by Commissioner Fulford, seconded by Commissioner Hall and carried 3 to 2 (Monroe and Boyd opposed), the Commission decided to send out a formal RFP for the road graders.
8. Alan Wise, engineer with Preble-Rish, presented the NRCS project recommendations to the Board. He stated that only one firm, Dixie Paving, was pre-qualified under Department of Transportation (DOT) standards. Mr. Wise stated his recommendation to award the contract to Dixie Paving based on the bid package that was advertised, but stated the Board was free to choose any of the three contractors that applied. Commissioner Fulford asked what those standards were, to which Mr. Wise responded it was somewhat of a "litmus test" that for projects over \$250,000 firms were required to be pre-qualified, but for projects under \$250,000 it was not necessary. Commissioner Hall asked about a mathematical error by Dixie Paving, to which Mr. Wise replied that unit price is the controlling factor if there is a bid error. Mr. Wise also explained that there was a timing issue and that he did not recommend putting the projects back out for bid. Attorney Bird explained that if the requirement was waived, then he felt the projects would have to be bid out again. Bill Hodge with Big Island Construction stated his concern with being told that the project was a lump sum. Scott Sheffield with Preble-Rish stated that only one contractor provided the information for what the county put out in its bid package. Cherie Hodge with Big Island Construction stated that with so many irregularities listed, the county should bid out the projects again and that the previous engineering firm seemed more adept at preparing bid documents. Jimmy Duggar with Duggar Excavating stated he made the decision not to get DOT pre-certified this year because it was too costly, but that he has been DOT pre-qualified previously. He stated that for a job this small, the requirement for a firm to be DOT pre-qualified was ridiculous because it just drove the price up for the taxpayers. Attorney Bird stated that Dixie Paving met all of the qualifications and that by changing the qualifications at this point, there may have been others that would have bid if that qualification had not been in there from the beginning. Commissioner Fulford made a motion to make FDOT Pre-Qualifications preferred and not required and re-bid the projects, to which Commissioner Hall seconded for discussion. Commissioner Monroe requested a small recess to speak with NRCS about the possibility about getting an extension on this project. After the recess, Attorney Bird stated that NRCS would ask for an extension if the issue was expedited and that Big Island Construction and Dugger Excavation agreed not to protest by waiving the requirement to be pre-qualified by FDOT if the projects were re-bid.
 9. Commissioner Boyd stated his concern that there was a risk of losing the NRCS money. Attorney Chris McRae representing Big Island stated that the risk of bidder protest was low and that Dixie Paving had no standing because it was not the low bidder. Commissioner Monroe stated that protests would slow down the project and that taking both low bidders was a safe route. Commissioner Fulford rescinded his original motion and Commissioner Hall rescinded his original second. Clerk of Court Kirk Reams recommended awarding the two NRCS projects by two separate motions. On motion by Commissioner Joyner, seconded by Commissioner Boyd and unanimously carried, the Board approved to not require FDOT pre-qualification and go with the low bidder on Old Lloyd Road, which was Big Island Construction. On motion by Commissioner Joyner, seconded by Commissioner Hall and unanimously carried, the Board approved to not require FDOT pre-qualification and go with the low bidder on Ebenezer Road, which was Duggar Excavating
 10. On motion by Commissioner Boyd, seconded by Commissioner Fulford and unanimously carried, the Board voted to extend the meeting to 1 pm.

11. County Library employee Natalie Binder presented the grant agreement between TDF Foundation and the Jefferson County Public Library, explaining that this foundation would supply computer equipment and the money for a part-time staff member. On motion by Commissioner Fulford, seconded by Commissioner Boyd and unanimously carried, the agreement with the TDF Foundation was approved.
12. On motion by Commissioner Fulford, seconded by Commissioner Boyd and unanimously carried, the Board approved up to \$12,000 for the renovation of the storage room to a computer lab at the library.
13. Commissioner Joyner explained how the Legislative Committee had been instrumental in bringing several million dollars to the county over the years and that he was willing to volunteer some of his time to continue lobbying efforts.
14. On motion by Commissioner Joyner, seconded by Commissioner Boyd and unanimously carried, the Board approved Chairman Monroe as the Board's representative on the Legislative Committee.
15. Dick Bailar of the legislative committee asked the Board for its legislative priorities. Commissioner Joyner responded that he would like to see a new fire station and to keep fighting for fiscally constrained revenue. Clerk of Court Kirk Reams stated his interest in fighting for various DOT road programs. Commissioner Fulford asked for a resolution to have the septic tank legislation repealed. Clerk of Court Kirk Reams also asked for a county-wide sewer system to be funded.
16. Attorney Bird stated he did not have a draft lease for the Brumbley Road Landing. He did state that he had a letter from the Boland Family attorney and that Mark Glisson had been helping with negotiations. Commissioner Monroe stated that there was currently no easement to the landing and that it was too shallow. He stated the Board needed to have a workshop to let the people comment on this issue. Citizen Dick Bailar recommended having a workshop on-site in December when the new Board is established. Citizen Roland Brumbley stated that he did not intend to let anyone travel across his property to access the river. Citizen Jeff Granger said the Commission had been mislead regarding the Malloy Landing Road issue and that the Board should spend some time before making a decision. Commissioner Boyd stated it was not fair to discredit a family that offered access in good faith and that the family stood with nothing to gain as they were going to allow the public access through their property. He stated there was no question that there was an easement across the Brumbley's land and that FWC could clear the channel of logs and vegetation. Chairman Monroe disagreed with Commissioner Monroe that Brumbley Road Landing was a viable alternative to Malloy Landing Road. Citizen Roland Brumbley stated that there was no easement across his land that the county had maintained, to which Commissioner Boyd responded it was a similar situation as the property lying between the end of Malloy Landing Road and Malloy Landing. Citizen Dick Bailar reiterated his belief that the Board should not go into another issue without all of the information and suggested having a workshop on-site, which was agreed to be scheduled after November 16th.
17. On motion by Commissioner Fulford, seconded by Commissioner Boyd and unanimously carried, the meeting was extended to 1:30 pm.
18. County Coordinator Roy Schleicher informed the Board that Preble-Rish would be looking into the Lake Road Ward Creek Bridge issues.
19. Citizen C.P. Miller expressed concern with the debris in the roadway after roads were mowed by the county.
20. Road Superintendent David Harvey asked for permission to repair the old road graders for \$60,000 because he had concern that the new road graders would not

be in place until March or April. Commissioner Boyd stated he was willing to rescind his previous vote and Commissioner Fulford expressed concern that this information was not presented earlier. Mr. Harvey stated that he needed four road graders and that two was not adequate. Commissioner Fulford responded that the bids in response to the RFP would be back soon and that hopefully both firms would have an opportunity to meet the county's needs.

21. Commissioner Boyd requested that the November 18th meeting be moved to November 16th at 6:00 pm with a code enforcement workshop at 5:00 pm.
22. Chairman Monroe stated that NRCS would be providing more money for possibly two future projects, for which the county will be responsible for up to 25% of approximately \$140,000.
23. The warrant register was reviewed and bills ordered paid.
24. On motion by Commissioner Fulford, seconded by Commissioner Hall, and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned.

Chairman

Attest: _____
Clerk