

JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR SESSION  
March 3, 2011

The Board met this date in regular session. Present were Chairman Stephen Fulford, Commissioners Betsy Barfield, Hines Boyd, Danny Monroe and John Nelson. Also present were County Coordinator Roy Schleicher, County Attorney Paula Sparkman and Clerk of Court Kirk Reams.

1. Chamber President Gordon Dean announced that Melanie Mays had been hired as Executive Director of the Chamber of Commerce.
2. On motion by Commissioner Barfield, seconded by Commissioner Nelson and unanimously carried, the Consent Agenda, consisting of the approval of the agenda and the minutes of the February 17, 2011 Regular Session, was approved.
3. John McHugh, on behalf of the Jefferson County Recreation Park Advisory Board, asked the Board to appoint a representative. Chairman Fulford volunteered. On motion by Commissioner Monroe, seconded by Commissioner Nelson and unanimously carried, the Board approved Chairman Fulford as the Board's representative on the Recreation Park Advisory Board.
4. Julie Conley and Phil Calandra gave an update on the Jefferson County vision plan and requested a future workshop on the matter. Commissioner Barfield asked citizen Lou Barrington to explain how Blakely, Georgia had developed a similar plan. Mr. Barrington explained that the plan in Blakely involved moving that community from an agriculturally based economy to a service based economy. Chairman Fulford stated his desire to look at what the county currently had and hold a workshop on that material. Commissioner Boyd commented that the Blakely plan sounded very similar to Taylor County and these plans were costly. County Coordinator Roy Schleicher was tasked with setting up a future workshop on this issue.
5. Landfill Engineer Frank Darabi presented a resolution to the Board that urged legislation to create a zone of discharge for groundwater within the limits of closed landfills. On motion by Commissioner Monroe, seconded by Commissioner Nelson and unanimously carried, the approved Resolution No. 11-030311-01.
6. Commissioner Barfield introduced the investment policy discussion. She stated that most of the county funds were in local checking accounts that yielded little interest. Commissioner Barfield expressed concern with FDIC insurance on these accounts. She also stated that she realized the county needed to maintain liquidity. She recommended forming a committee to create a policy for investing in order to give the Clerk a tool to use for investing. Clerk of Court Kirk Reams stated his desire to maintain liquidity and low risk. Attorney Sparkman agreed to meet with Commissioner Barfield and Clerk Reams to work on a future investment policy proposal.
7. Commissioner Barfield introduced the internet cafe discussion. She expressed concern with internet cafes opening in Jefferson County. Commissioner Barfield was interested to how the citizens of Jefferson County felt about these cafes. She further stated that other counties had created local ordinances addressing these institutions. Attorney Sparkman stated that Leon County was waiting to see what the legislature was going to do. Chairman Fulford agreed that this situation should be addressed by the legislature first. Commissioner Nelson stated a desire to work on economic development because closed businesses were targeted by the cafe owners. He also agreed that he would like to see what happened at the legislative level before taking action. Commissioner Monroe concurred. Commissioner Barfield stated her desire to be pro-active and to let the citizens help guide the Board on this matter. Property Appraiser Angela Gray reminded the Board that if the property is leased to a non-profit organization, the original owner was still responsible for paying property taxes. However, she warned of proposed legislation to change this rule. Chairman Fulford stated the consensus of the Board was to wait until steps were taken by the legislature before the situation was addressed locally.
8. Commissioner Barfield introduced the Rules of Procedure for the distribution of workshop materials. She introduced "shall" language in regards to the requirement

- for workshop material to be received 4 days prior to the workshop. Commissioner Boyd stated that he felt like the Board was putting itself in a box and that workshops were for free flow of ideas. He also stated he was worried about the potential of shutting down meetings. Commissioner Monroe stated that workshops were less formal and should remain flexible. Commissioner Barfield stated that she could live with the flexible language provided by Commissioner Boyd if every effort was made to meet the 4-day requirement. On motion by Commissioner Monroe, seconded by Commissioner Boyd and unanimously carried, the Board approved Resolution No. 11-030311-02, which amended the Rules of Procedure to include that “a preliminary meeting agenda and materials requiring pre-meeting review by Commissioners should be made available at least 4 days prior to the workshop, retreat or forum.”
9. Attorney Paula Sparkman inquired as to whether or not there was any interest in the county accepting the Welcome Center property at the Florida-Georgia state line. Commissioner Boyd responded that it was a nice piece of real estate that it would be hard to say “no” to the opportunity. Chairman Fulford commented that the property had been on the market for a long time. Commissioner Monroe stated his desire for flexibility in regards to the county’s potential ownership of the property. County Coordinator Roy Schleicher requested to look into this matter with the County Attorney. It was the consensus of the Board to allow the County Coordinator this request.
  10. Property Appraiser Angela Gray presented the draft ordinance for the Low-Income Senior Citizen Homestead Exemption, with projected estimates of lost revenues from the \$10,000 to \$50,000 exemption ranges. Commissioner Boyd suggested starting at the \$5,000 exemption range to see a more gradual impact due to tight budget times. Commissioner Nelson commented that he felt the 200 estimated number of exemptions was a very conservative number. Commissioner Monroe voiced concerns about both the budget and helping seniors. Chairman Fulford asked Mrs. Gray what Madison County had done, to which she responded that Madison had a \$50,000 exemption and approximately 175 exemptions. Commissioner Boyd stated his worries about losing too much revenue and having to either raise taxes or cut services. Commissioner Barfield stated she was comfortable starting with the \$15,000 exemption. On motion by Commissioner Barfield, seconded by Commissioner Boyd and unanimously carried, the Board approved the ordinance to be drafted and publicly heard at the \$15,000 exemption level.
  11. Engineer Alan Wise, with Preble-Rish, presented the Jefferson County Rock Mine analysis to the Board. Based on the study, Mr. Wise stated that it was costing the county approximately \$20 per ton to produce the material from the mine. He also explained that the maximum Limerock Bearing Ration (LBR) was 50, but that FDOT required a minimum score of 100 for road base. He explained that labor and equipment expenditure information for April-December of 2010 was made available by county staff. Also provided was production information for the mine for September-December 2010. Commissioner Barfield inquired as to why more operational data was not available, to which County Coordinator Roy Schleicher responded that the Road Department only gave information that it was comfortable with. Commissioner Boyd gave a history of the mine’s operations and stated his concern with the appropriateness of costs used in the study that he considered overhead. Commissioner Barfield asked whether this material could be purchased cheaper than the county could produce it. Engineer Alan Wise responded that, based on this study, the county could purchase material cheaper than it could produce it. Commissioner Nelson stated his belief that the report did not have enough data to accurately measure in order to draw conclusions. Commissioner Nelson asked what the county’s typical yearly requirement was for this material. Commissioner Boyd responded that this amount was approximately 30,000 tons a year, but the major problem was the county’s hauling capacity. Commissioner Boyd presented an analysis showing that material could be produced at \$4.42 per ton. Chairman Fulford commented that at that rate, the county was only producing 50 LBR material and the county could purchase 100 LBR material for approximately \$4.50 per ton. Commissioner Boyd stated his opinion that the net effect on the Road Department budget would be an increase because the county cannot haul all the material itself. Engineer Scott Sheffield, with Preble-Rish, stated that in order for the county to use road base as a match for any grant, the material needed to have an LBR of 100. He also stated that the county does not currently have the type of equipment necessary to get to that material at the mine. Commissioner Monroe stated that there had been

water issues at the mine in the past and that quality material was there but the county needed the equipment to get to it. Commissioner Barfield stated that production would have to increase to generate 30,000 tons per year. She stated that she felt like there was potential for the county to partner with an active contractor. She also expressed concern over the cost of production versus the cost of purchasing. Commissioner Boyd stated that local businesses would suffer and that road base on demand would be more difficult to obtain. Commissioner Barfield responded that she was not sold on any local effects and that demand issues could be handled by planning and stockpiling. Commissioner Nelson responded that there were many unknowns and that this might be a good issue to workshop. Commissioner Barfield stated that it was unfortunate that records were not available and that the county is potentially paying more to produce material than it would cost to purchase. County Coordinator Roy Schleicher stated that historical information was not available and suggested associating Preble-Rish with an expert in the mining field while accumulating data and tracking costs over the next few months. Commissioner Barfield asked if the county could rely on Mr. Harvey to provide correct information. Engineer Alan Wise responded that the information and method of receiving it has been fine thus far. Commissioner Boyd responded that former Suwannee County Commissioner Randy Hatch, an experienced mine operator, had offered to share his knowledge and analyze the county's mine operation. It was the consensus of the Board to take advantage of Mr. Hatch's offer and continue to operate the mine in the interim.

12. County Coordinator Roy Schleicher informed the Board that after a meeting with Road Superintendent David Harvey to review his budget, it was determined that Mr. Harvey should be right on target by fiscal year end.
13. Commissioner Barfield asked for an update with the new debt collection vendor for EMS bills. She expressed concern with any potential problems of obtaining records from the billing company.
14. Commissioner Barfield asked about the Dangerous Animal Ordinance, to which Attorney Paula Sparkman stated a draft would be available at the next meeting.
15. Commissioner Barfield stated she looked at the potential for a bike lane on a section of Highway 90 with Harry Reed of the CRTPA. She stated a desire for more "Share the Road" signs.
16. Commissioner Barfield informed the Board that she had been asked to serve on the Tallahassee Leon County Economic Development Board.
17. Chairman Fulford announced that the Leon County Commission was hosting an Honest Services Fraud Law workshop on March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2011 from 1:30 to 3:00 pm in chambers.
18. The warrant register was reviewed and bills ordered paid.
19. On motion by Commissioner Barfield, seconded by Commissioner Nelson unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned.

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk

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Chairman