

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
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JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR SESSION
November 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 Buck Bird and Chief Deputy Clerk of Court Tyler McNeill.

ITEM 2(a): 211 Big Bend

1. Margot Gilbert and Lavinia Mayo with 211 Big Bend explained the role of their organization. They described the various types of referrals and counseling available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

ITEM 2(b): Veteran's Day Presentation

2. Commissioner Nelson recognized the Veterans of Jefferson County (Chester Cox, Willard Barnhart, Bill Calvin, Ernest Sneed, TJ Gamble) and presented each with a plaque.
3. Property Appraiser Angela Gray presented the Board with a refund of \$16,000 from her office budget.

ITEM 3: Consent Agenda

4. Commissioner Barfield requested to the pull the agenda for discussion and possible amendments.
5. **On motion by Commissioner Barfield, seconded by Commissioner Nelson and unanimously carried, the Board voted to move the discussion of bringing the Wacissa River Park under the Parks Department (Item 5b) to the November 14th night meeting.**
6. **On motion by Commissioner Nelson, seconded by Commissioner Monroe and unanimously carried, the Board voted to accept the rest of the agenda.**
7. **On motion by Commissioner Barfield, seconded by Commissioner Nelson and unanimously carried, the minutes of the October 6th, 2011 Regular Session were approved, with the requested change to wording on item # 25 (Gulf Wind Railroad Association).**
8. **On motion by Commissioner Boyd, seconded by Commissioner Monroe and unanimously carried, the minutes of the October 20th, 2011 Regular Session were approved.**
9. Commissioner Barfield stated she had not problem with the proposed resolution in support of the current water management district structure, but wanted Attorney Scott Shirley to offer his comments. Attorney Shirley explained that this resolution supports the current structure and recommended a resolution to be heard at the next meeting to be listed as a regular agenda item. **On motion by Commissioner Monroe, seconded by**

Commissioner Nelson and unanimously carried, the Board postponed the resolution to the next meeting.

10. **On motion by Commissioner Boyd, seconded by Commissioner Monroe and unanimously carried, the Board approved the resolution supporting the grant for Main Street Jai Restoration.**

ITEM 4: Citizen's Request and Input on Non-Agenda Items

11. Economic Development Director Julie Conley stated she was happy to hear discussion by the Board about Economic Development. She said her Board had requested a workshop with the Commissioners.

ITEM 5(a): Taylor Co. Request for No-Wake Zone on Aucilla River

12. Jack Brown of Taylor County was not present. County Coordinator Roy Schleicher stated that Taylor County had already approved a resolution to this effect. County Attorney Buck Bird stated it was the area just north of the 98 bridge and said the main issue was putting up a few signs regarding no wake. He stated that Taylor County would police the matter and were just requesting the Board's approval, preferably via ordinance. Chairman Fulford stated he had no problem with the ordinance and recommended moving forward with an ordinance. County Coordinator Roy Schleicher requested that County Attorney Buck Bird prepare an ordinance for public hearing and to have it on the agenda for the next meeting.

ITEM 5(c): Concession Stand /Park Lighting

13. County Coordinator Roy Schleicher introduced the issues of the concession stand and park lighting. He said that the concession stand was dangerous and adjoining restrooms were not ADA complaint. He requested to move forward with the planning of a new concession stand and restrooms. Regarding the lighting, he said that the wiring did not meet electrical standards. He added that the light poles were so old that they were dangerous and recommended moving forward with estimates to address the light poles and electrical issues to meet standards. The Board briefly discussed the demand charge paid by the county. County Coordinator Schleicher said the county was charged for the potential use of the lights, year round and stated that with the recent merger between Progress Energy and Duke Energy, there may be changes to the demand charge. Chairman Fulford said we need to evaluate if activities are covering the cost to use the lights. Deputy Clerk Nick Flynt stated that the demand charge was about \$350 per month and stated that having another meter to split the office from the lights would possibly be beneficial. Commissioner Nelson concurred with the above statement that the wiring issues needed to be addressed. County Coordinator Schleicher stated that county engineer Preble-Rish may be able to assist with professional services component of this project. Commissioner Barfield requested that in this process, the county revisit energy efficiency and cost savings measures as discussed previously. Citizen Paul Henry asked why the word "grant" was thrown around and why the county did not consider a bond. County Coordinator Roy Schleicher said he would bring back his recommendations to the Board at a later meeting.

ITEM 6: PUBLIC HEARING – ORDINANCE NO. 2011-110311-01
AMENDING PLANNING COMMISSION RULES

14. Attorney Scott Shirley stated this was the first and final reading for the above referenced ordinance. He read the ordinance in its entirety and welcomed questions. He also added that future changes may need to be incorporated but recommended approving the ordinance at this time. Citizen Bud Wheeler inquired about different issues being addressed and also asked how there would be a Planning Commission meeting next week with so many vacancies on the Board. Attorney Shirley stated there should be enough Planning Commissioners present for a quorum. Citizen Charles Parrish inquired about applications for this Board and stated that when he previously asked, he was told they were incomplete. County Coordinator Roy Schleicher responded that applications were complete and could be picked up at his office. **On motion by Commissioner Monroe, seconded by Commissioner Boyd and unanimously carried, the Board approved Ordinance No. 2011-110311-01, amending Planning Commission Rules.**

ITEM 5(d): Redistricting Issues

15. Chairman Fulford introduced the discussion by stating the main issue was whether to include or exclude the prison population. **Commissioner Boyd made a motion to continue to include the prison population, to which Commissioner Nelson seconded for discussion.** Commissioner Barfield stated her opinion that including the prison population was not proper representation and presented a written statement and statistics for public record. She stated that she knew the risks based on counsel and Attorney General opinions, but felt strongly about her opinion as the prisoners were temporarily housed, convicted felons that could not vote and should not have equal footing as law abiding citizens. Chairman Fulford stated he did not see any benefit accomplished by taking risk against statutes to follow the census. He said this authority was not delegated to the Board to make the decision. Commissioner Monroe stated his hope that the legislature would address this issue in the future and that the county need to stay within the guidelines. He added that the Attorney General's opinion carried significant weight. Commissioner Nelson concurred that he wanted to abide by the law. Citizen Charles Parrish inquired as to whether or not there was any great amount of shift in any district, to which Chairman Fulford responded in the affirmative and said it would be addressed next. Commissioner Boyd added that things are not always perfect, but the courts have to decide how we represent our population. **By a vote of 4 to 1 (Barfield opposed), the above motion was carried.**
16. Chairman Fulford said there were significant changes in several districts, particularly districts 1, 3 and 4 which each grew by over 500 residents. He said that since this was outside of 10%, the Board would need to proceed with redistricting. He noted that the Clerk of Court had offered the support of IT Director Johnnie Abron on county time and offered to purchase the software/program in order for the county to have full functionality and capability. Chairman Fulford added this software could be utilized more than once, particularly by the Road and Planning Departments. Commissioner Boyd said he spoke with citizen George Cole, who would love to be involved. Commissioner Barfield expressed reservations about a county employee drawing lines and stated that for propriety's sake, she would prefer for someone else to do it. Chairman Fulford said the drawing of the map was more technical work and that the Board would ultimately decide about the lines. Commissioner Boyd proposed that Mr. Cole and Mr. Abron work together as a team. Citizen Charles Parrish noted that the last time lines were drawn, it was done by the citizens and did not cost the county any money. Citizen Bud Wheeler said he agreed with Commissioner Barfield about a county employee performing the

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function. Citizen C.P. Miller noted that this discussion was only the beginning and that the controversy would only get worse when doing the map. Commissioner Monroe stated he liked the idea of having Mr. Abron and Mr. Cole perform the work at a specified county location. Citizen Paul Henry asked why each Board member did not appoint a representative, to which Chairman Fulford said he had no one in mind and would prefer to represent himself on this matter. County Attorney Buck Bird noted that voter age and demographic information was necessary per court order. **On motion by Commissioner Nelson, seconded by Commissioner Monroe and unanimously carried, the Board moved to have two technicians input the data into a computer for the Board to review.** Chairman Fulford requested that each Board member keep Mondays in November available to meet in conjunction with the School Board. He said he would reach out to the School Board and bring back a firm date and time.

ITEM 7(a): County Coordinator's Report / County Mine Update

17. County Coordinator Roy Schleicher gave an update on the county mine. He stated that three employees had been interviewed and approved to work at the mine. Two of these employees will be present at the mine during work hours, with the third employee serving as an alternate. He stated that the blast would take place at the mine next week and there were very stringent instructions from Mr. Hatch about being at the site during this time frame.
18. Fire Chief Mark Matthews stated that the city was not interested in signing the interlocal agreement and noted that the city was not currently paying the Fire Assessment, which could ultimately result in legal action or other issues. County Coordinator Roy Schleicher stated he would reach out to the city along with County Attorney Buck Bird to discuss further.
19. Commissioner Barfield inquired about purchased made by the Road Department. County Coordinator Schleicher stated that to date the items had not been paid for and that Road Superintendent David Harvey would come before the Board at the next meeting. He noted that Clerk of Court Kirk Reams, as CFO, could refuse to pay since the items were not purchased according to the Purchasing Policy. County Coordinator Schleicher added that he would be sending each Commissioner a memo discussing the Road Department in detail, specifically a table of organization, pay rates, job descriptions, hiring practices and stolen items. Commissioner Barfield expressed her belief that the Road Superintendent needed to follow the purchasing policy and correct hiring practices. Commissioner Boyd stated that the county needed to pay its employees well. Commissioner Nelson stated that there were many issues at the Road Department that needed attention and said he would bring some items before the Board at the next meeting. Commissioner Barfield asked the Board how long they were going to tolerate the Road Superintendent's bad behavior. Solid Waste Director Beth Letchworth expressed concern about the hiring practices of the Road Department and stated it was not fair that she had to answer to her employees for following the rules. Assistant County Coordinator Henry Gohlke added that if procedures had been followed by the Road Department, the county would not be having these issues.

ITEM 8: Citizens' Forum

20. Citizen Charles Parrish expressed concern over Fire Assessment money being used to take care of people in the city that did not pay the Fire Assessment.

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21. Citizen Paul Henry wanted to let the Board know there was a bill in the legislature to allow gas retailers to sell ethanol free gas. He also inquired about the nature/origin of the refund given back to the Board by Property Appraiser Angela Gray.
22. Citizen C.P. Miller stated his opinion that all employees are molded and that Road Superintendent David Harvey gets away with breaking the rules because the Board allows it to happen.
23. Deputy Clerk Nick Flynt presented two budget amendment requests to the Board: one regarding NRCS and the other regarding the Enterprise Florida grant. **Commissioner Nelson made a motion, to which Commissioner Monroe seconded for discussion.** Mr. Flynt noted that these amendments were strictly housekeeping issues in order to close out the books. Commissioner Boyd said he felt this should be an agenda item. **Commissioner Nelson withdrew his motion and this issue will be on the next agenda.**

ITEM 9: Commissioner Discussion Items

24. Commissioner Nelson gave a summary of the Veteran's Day activities over the next week and invited the Board to the parade in Greenville on Friday, November 11th at 8:15 with a free breakfast following.
25. Commissioner Barfield stated she met with Mr. Dillard and Mr. Lilly of the County Extension to discuss the horse arena and stated she would keep the Board posted on any developments. She also mentioned the idea of possibly housing the Code Enforcement Officer at the Solid Waste Department. Commissioner Barfield also thanked Commissioner Nelson for the earlier presentation to county veterans.
26. Commissioner Monroe said he had spoken with Alan Wise regarding the dredging at the Wacissa River. He stated that the county had the permit but was waiting on the Army Corps of Engineers. He added that he does not yet have a price for the dredging machine or worker but would bring back to the Board as soon as he had the information.
27. Commissioner Boyd stated he did not think we had a budget for hiring a person for Code Enforcement.
28. Chairman Fulford requested a leave of absence from the Broadband Authority Board for personal reasons. It was stated that the County Coordinator could serve as the Board appointee as an alternate. This item was placed on the agenda for the next meeting.
29. The warrant register was reviewed and bills ordered paid.

ITEM 10: Adjournment

- 30. On motion by Commissioner Monroe, seconded by Commissioner Nelson and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned.**

Chairman

Attest: _____
Clerk