

JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
SPECIAL SESSION  
June 19, 2012

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

**ITEM 3: Economic Development Proposal**

1. Commissioner Fulford informed the Board of meetings that he held with a private company interested in moving to Jefferson County. He explained that Harrell Nut Company was interested in the county obtaining a 10-acre parcel identified for their use adjacent to the Industrial Park that was part of a larger 26-acre parcel for sale. Marty Harrell, CEO of Harrell Nut Company, stated that Florida was part of their next expansion and that Jefferson County was ideal because of its proximity to their location in Camilla, Georgia. Commissioner Fulford stated that realtor Steve Walker had negotiated a contract for \$11,000 per acre with the property owner and that this was a good use of fiscally constrained monies. Commissioner Barfield asked who would own the property and also how many employees would be hired. Commissioner Fulford answered that Harrell would own the 10-acre parcel and that fall-back provisions such as a minimum level of 50 employees and reimbursement if Harrell Nut Company sold the property could be placed in an agreement. Commissioner Barfield asked if Harrell Nut Company's financial information was available, to which Clerk of Court Kirk Reams responded that Enterprise Florida could provide the analysis in confidentiality. Chairman Boyd voiced his concern over using fiscally constrained money. Clerk of Court Kirk Reams stated there was a possibility of recouping some of the money towards donating the land and that this was a good step in the right direction with the use of fiscally constrained money. Citizen Paul Henry stated that it sounded like the taxpayer was paying for this company to come to the county, to which Chairman Boyd responded that the legal ground on this matter was well founded. Commissioner Barfield asked what the average annual salary would be, to which Mr. Harrell responded \$35,000. **On motion by Commissioner Fulford, seconded by Commissioner Barfield and unanimously carried, the Board approved executing a contract for the purchase of the 26.6 acres at \$11,000 per acre with fiscally constrained money.** Commissioner Nelson inquired as to any environmental concerns, to which Engineer Alan Wise stated that he was confident that there would be no environmental issues, but a Phase I audit would be performed. Realtor Steve Walker added that the City of Monticello would waive tap fees of approximately \$45,000 for access to the water and sewer systems. **On motion by Commissioner Fulford, seconded by Commissioner Monroe and unanimously carried, the Board approved contracting with Harrell Nut Company in order to deed over the 10-acre parcel.**

**ITEM 2: County Coordinator Contract Discussion**

2. Chairman Boyd informed the Board that he had met with Parrish Barwick and Attorney Bird to negotiate the contract. Chairman Boyd explained that Mr. Barwick was asking that the county match his current contract of \$68,900 and that he did not desire health insurance or moving expenses. Mr. Barwick also requested mileage at state rates if he is required to travel outside of the county on county business. Chairman Boyd stated that Mr. Barwick currently had a one year severance and that six to nine months had been discussed by the Board previously. Chairman Boyd stated that Madison County paid approximately \$73,000; Taylor County paid over \$100,000; and Hamilton County paid in

the upper \$60,000 range. Commissioner Nelson voiced concern over setting a precedent with including the non-acceptance of health insurance as an added benefit to the salary. Attorney Bird stated that the county needed to have a set policy for addressing this and in doing so, would need to require employees to have their own insurance. Clerk of Court Kirk Reams stated that structuring Mr. Barwick's salary in this manner would be an issue with current employees that do not take health insurance coverage. Commissioner Monroe stated concern with jumping from the offer of \$60,000 to \$69,000 as Mr. Schleicher was only making \$56,000. Commissioner Monroe further said that the county was hiring a coordinator, not a manager. Mr. Schleicher responded that the county needed this position and that Mr. Barwick was asking for a fair salary. Commissioner Fulford and Clerk of Court Kirk Reams inquired about the permanent resident status, to which Chairman Boyd responded that Mr. Barwick was aware of the requirement to establish residency in the county within 12 months and that this would be included in the contract. Human Resources Clerk Tyler McNeill stated that Mr. Barwick declining health insurance was a separate issue and it should not be included in the contract. **On motion by Commissioner Barfield, seconded by Commissioner Monroe and unanimously carried, the Board approved the contract of employment for Mr. Parrish Barwick.**

**ITEM 4: Solid Waste Assessment Discussion**

3. Chairman Boyd stated it was important to move forward on this issue and introduced a spreadsheet with a base fee for both residential and commercial customers. Commissioner Barfield voiced concerns over burning up the surplus on operational costs by lowering the assessment to \$150. Commissioner Fulford stated that the unknown number at this time would be revenue generated from commercial fees. Chairman Boyd stated that the county needed to charge a competitive fee in order to keep private industry out. Commissioner Fulford responded that the county would have big capital expenditures in purchasing containers for commercial establishments. City Manager Steve Wingate stated that the city did not supply containers for commercial businesses. Commissioner Fulford stated that a decision needed to be made on the proper amount of reserves moving forward. He further stated that the county needed to avoid running out of monies for capital expenditures in the future and that it was not smart to use reserves to operate. Citizen Paul Henry suggested forming a citizens committee to help address the issues. Commissioner Nelson expressed concern about moving forward without the proper information. Chairman Boyd responded that this has been an issue for a year and that the \$1.6 million reserve could be growing in the future. Commissioner Barfield stated that the reserve would be \$900,000 after capital improvements budgeted in this current year. **On motion by Commissioner Barfield, seconded by Commissioner and carried 3 to 2 (Fulford and Monroe opposed), the annual reserve in the Solid Waste assessment fund was set at \$300,000.** Commissioner Barfield requested that Citizen Phil Calandra, Solid Waste Director Beth Letchworth and Clerk of Court Kirk Reams bring back a proposal. Chairman Boyd responded that this would probably be a good project for the new county coordinator.
4. Commissioner Monroe presented a letter of appreciation to Dixie County for their assistance with the dredging project at the Wacissa River.

**ITEM 5: Adjournment**

5. **On motion by Commissioner Fulford, seconded by Commissioner Nelson and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned.**

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Chairman

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