

JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR SESSION  
July 19, 2012

The Board met this date in regular 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: Consent Agenda**

1. Commissioner Barfield requested moving item 5(j) to the first item of business and requested that item 5(b), Resolution Supporting Rural Infrastructure Grant, be removed as it has previously been acted upon. **On motion by Commissioner Fulford, seconded by Commissioner Monroe and unanimously carried, the Board approved the consent agenda, consisting of the approval of the agenda as amended and the minutes of the June 19<sup>th</sup> special session and the June 26<sup>th</sup> regular session.**

**ITEM 4: Citizens Request and Input on Non-Agenda Items**

2. Citizen Bud Wheeler presented an attendance list of planning commission members to the Board and requested that something be done about poor attendance.

**ITEM 5(j): Proposal to move Extension Office to Green Industries**

3. Extension Director John Lilly informed the Board of an opportunity to move to the Green Industries location. Commissioner Barfield stated that North Florida Community College has indicated a desire to pull out of the Green Industries facility. Mr. Lilly spoke of utilizing inmates to cover the cost of the move and expressed his desire to create offices out of two conference rooms. Chairman Boyd spoke of his desire to have the agricultural and maintenance equipment onsite signed over to the county. **On motion by Commissioner Barfield, seconded by Commissioner Nelson and unanimously carried, the decision to proceed with the Extension Office moving to Green Industries was approved.**

**ITEM 5(a): Health Insurance Options**

4. Commissioner Barfield stated her ultimate goal was to see if there was any way to achieve cost savings related to health insurance. Chief Deputy Clerk and HR Officer Tyler McNeill stated that the Clerk's Office compiled census information and provided to the broker each year in order for the broker to test the market. He added that any savings realized would be due to a reduction of health insurance benefit and that the county was likely too small to self-insure or have more than one plan option. Commissioner Barfield stated that in the future she would like to see some sort of report on savings.

**ITEM 5(c): Canvassing Board Appointment**

5. Clerk of Court Kirk Reams explained that because a relative was running for office, Supervisor of Elections Marty Bishop would need to be replaced on the Canvassing Board for the Primary Election. Chairman Boyd stated he recommended Commissioner Fulford because he is not seeking re-election. **On motion by Commissioner Nelson, seconded by Commissioner Monroe and unanimously carried, Commissioner Fulford was appointed as Mr. Bishop's replacement.**

**ITEM 5(e): VAB Commission and Citizen Appointments**

6. Clerk of Court Kirk Reams requested that the Board appoint a citizen and two Commissioners to the Value Adjustment Board. He informed the Board that Denise Vogelsang was the lone citizen applicant. **On motion by Commissioner Monroe, seconded by Commissioner Fulford and unanimously carried, Denise Vogelsang was appointed to the VAB. On motion by Commissioner Barfield, seconded by Commissioner Monroe and unanimously carried, Commissioners Fulford and Nelson were appointed to the VAB.**

**ITEM 5(f): Personnel Policy**

7. County Coordinator Parrish Barwick stated that Commissioner Monroe had some lingering issues with the personnel policy related to Department Heads and employees of Department Heads. Commissioner Barfield requested that the language be brought back before the Board for review.

**ITEM 5(g): Tax Abatement Referendum Process**

8. County Attorney Buck Bird provided a draft of the Tax Abatement Ordinance. **On motion by Commissioner Barfield, seconded by Commissioner Fulford and unanimously carried, the Board approved placing the Tax Abatement issue on the election ballot for November.**

**ITEM 5(h): American Hunter Cooksey Proposal**

9. Economic Development Director Julie Conley presented two proposals from local banks for an \$800,000 / ten year loan for the County to build a facility for the Cookseys. Clerk of Court Kirk Reams inquired as to whether the Cookseys could make the lease payments required to service the loan, to which Mrs. Conley stated that Dr. Garrett had examined their financial statements and was confident in their ability to pay. Attorney Bird stated that the county would acquire the land and the building in the event the Cookseys ever defaulted. Commissioner Barfield stated her desire to have this be a lease-purchase so the property would go back on the tax rolls. Commissioner Nelson expressed his desire to see a copy of the lease. Dr. Garrett stated his opinion about the Cooksey's strong financial viability. Commissioner Barfield asked where the money would come from if the Cookseys defaulted, to which Clerk of Court Kirk Reams responded fiscally constrained funds. Citizen Paul Henry stated that taxpayers would be bearing the burden of taking this property off the tax rolls. Commissioner Fulford stated that Harrell Nut Company would be paying taxes on their improvements and the Cookseys would also once they purchased the building from the county. **On motion by Commissioner Fulford, seconded by Commissioner Monroe and unanimously carried, the Board accepted the terms offered by Farmers & Merchants Bank for the loan.**

**ITEM 5(i): Small Business Development Update / Incubator Proposal**

10. Dr. Dallas Garrett gave an update on Small Business Development and requested a joint workshop with the city to discuss the incubator proposal. Chairman Boyd offered the 21<sup>st</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> as options for the joint workshop to begin at 6:30 pm.

**ITEM 5(k): Solid Waste Assessment Discussion / Resolution**

11. County Coordinator Parrish Barwick informed the Board that a reduction in the assessment to \$170 could be accomplished after working with Solid Waste Director Beth Letchworth on the issue. Commissioner Barfield expressed concern with dipping too deep into reserves if the assessment was too low. Clerk of Court Kirk Reams stated that \$210 was the maximum assessment recommended by the study performed by GSG and that as long as the county was below this rate, the assessment could be defended. He also stated that the intent of the study was to clear up any inequities in the assessment. Chairman Boyd stated that this was a good step toward resolving those inequities and that this was needed in order for the county to be competitive with the private sector. Mr. Barwick stated that the operations of the Solid Waste Department needed to be reviewed in order to determine the level of service expected and how that service is currently being provided. Chairman Boyd asked if the Board was conceptually ready to set the residential and commercial base fee at \$170. Commissioner Nelson said he was not ready to adopt the rate. Commissioner Fulford stated that the commercial revenue was the unknown in the equation, but he had confidence in Mr. Barwick to make the assessment as low as possible while making the budget work.

**ITEM 6: County Coordinator's Report**

12. County Coordinator Parrish Barwick presented his report to the Board.

**ITEM 7: Citizen's Forum**

13. Citizen Paul Henry thanked County Coordinator Barwick for looking out for the citizens.
14. Citizen John Cobb discussed the condition of Tyson Road and asked what the county was planning to do about it. Commissioner Monroe stated that it was on the list of roads to be paved and Clerk of Court Kirk Reams suggested that he and others attend future meetings to let the Board know that they would like the road bond renewed. Mr. Cobb also stated that he could not call Road Superintendent David Harvey because Mr. Harvey told him that he does not work for the citizens. Commissioner Nelson stated that the citizens had a right to call the Department Head or County Coordinator and that he had an issue with Mr. Harvey's attitude towards the citizens.

**ITEM 8: Commissioner Discussion Items**

15. Clerk of Court Kirk Reams asked for Board consensus to waive permitting fees for Harrell Nut Company. The consensus of the Board was to waive the fees and expedite the process within state law.
16. Commissioner Monroe stated that NRCS would be visiting tomorrow to go over some road projects.
17. Commissioner Nelson stated that so far nothing had been done on Rosie Road for Mr. Williams and that the Board needed to seriously think about how to improve roads in the future and that he was a strong proponent on moving forward with paving county roads.
18. Commissioner Barfield requested a future update on the Restore Act and stated that Commissioner discussion should be allowed under the first citizen's request item. Chairman Boyd stated that the purpose was to give everyone a chance to speak and that the Commission needed to finish its work before getting into discussions. Commissioner

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
MINUTE BOOK 23, PAGE \_\_\_\_\_

Barfield also stated she was upset to hear a citizen speak at a meeting about how poorly he was treated by a Department Head and that she would like to see this addressed.

**ITEM 9: Adjournment**

19. The warrant register was reviewed and bills ordered paid.

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman