

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

JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR SESSION  
August 2, 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 Parrish Barwick, County Attorney Buck Bird and Clerk of Court Kirk Reams.

**ITEM 2: Public Announcements, Presentations and Awards**

1. County Engineer Alan Wise gave an update on FEMA and NRCS related issues. Commissioner Monroe stated that he was working on a letter to request 100% funding from NRCS. Chairman Boyd requested that Mr. Wise involve County Coordinator Barwick in discussions with FEMA.

**ITEM 3: Consent Agenda**

2. **On motion by Commissioner Monroe, seconded by Commissioner Fulford and unanimously carried, the Board approved the consent agenda, consisting of the approval of the agenda, was approved.**

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

3. Citizen John Cobb asked about progress on getting Tyson Road improved and stated he felt it was unprofessional the way Chairman Boyd spoke to Commissioner Barfield at the previous meeting.
4. Citizen Ann Cummings informed the Board of flooding damage to her property due to Tropical Storm Debby and that Road Superintendent David Harvey did not do anything to help with the road. Commissioner Monroe responded that the culverts were open and that the seller of the property should have informed her that her home was in the flood plain.

**ITEM 5(a): SRWMD State of the Resource Update**

5. Dr. George Cole introduced Dr. Ann Shortelle as the new director of the Suwannee River Water Management District. Dr. Shortelle gave a PowerPoint presentation and invited the Commissioners to the district meeting at Dixie Plantation on August 14<sup>th</sup>.

**ITEM 5(b): Audit Presentation**

6. Auditor Joe Schenck with Carr, Riggs & Ingram presented the Audit Report to the Board and stated the county was in sound financial condition. Commissioner Barfield expressed concern with the write-off of ambulance collections. Mr. Schenck stated that it was common for half of receivables to be written-off each year. Commissioner Barfield asked about other employment benefits. Auditor Chris Johnson stated that this was a calculation of future benefits possibly offered to retired employees and under the Florida Retirement System, retired employees could not be excluded from health insurance. Commissioner Barfield inquired about the deficiencies related to Meridian Group and stated that she did not want to see the grants in jeopardy because of sloppy work. Commissioner Barfield asked if the Tax Collector's outstanding reconciliations needed to be sent to the County,

to which Mr. Schenck responded that after reconciliations, any overages should be sent to the County Commission. Commissioner Barfield inquired as to why no warrants had been issued on delinquent personal property taxes, to which Mr. Johnson responded that only a minimal amount of warrants were not issued. Commissioner Barfield asked how much cash the county should keep for operating purposes, to which Mr. Schenck responded as much as could be accumulated, but preferably 3 to 4 months of operating expenses. He further stated that liquidity was important and that investment returns in this economy were minimal at best.

**ITEM 5(c): Ambulance Purchase Request**

7. Fire Rescue Chief Mark Matthews stated that only \$2000 of the current budget would be needed to purchase the used ambulance. Chairman Boyd commended Chief Matthews for being resourceful. **On motion by Commissioner Fulford, seconded by Commissioner Monroe and unanimously carried, the Board approved the purchase.**

**ITEM 5(d): Re-districting Attorney Services**

8. County Attorney Buck Bird presented a proposal for re-districting attorney services from Bryant, Miller & Olive, with a cap of \$25,000, which included the original contract amount of \$10,000. Commissioner Barfield requested that Bryant, Miller & Olive give an estimate of how much it would cost to do the future re-districting work. **On motion by Commissioner Barfield, seconded by Commissioner Fulford and carried 4 to 1 (Nelson opposed), the decision to extend the contract with Bryant, Miller & Olive not to exceed \$25,000 and to negotiate the price for the firm performing future re-districting proposals was approved.**

**ITEM 5(e): Letter of Agreement with Harrell Nut Company/Camilla Foods**

9. County Attorney Buck Bird presented a letter of agreement that will run with the land and would be binding if the land was sold within a ten-year period. Commissioner Fulford stated that Harrell needed dirt to raise the elevation of the site and will be getting material through building the stormwater structure. **On motion by Commissioner Fulford, seconded by Commissioner Monroe and unanimously carried, the letter of agreement with Harrell Nut Company/Camilla Foods was approved.**

**ITEM 5(f): Housing Proposals**

10. County Coordinator Parrish Barwick presented proposals from Meridian and Guardian. Commissioner Fulford requested that the Board hold a workshop to discuss and evaluate the two proposals. A workshop was set for August 9<sup>th</sup> at 9 am.

**ITEM 5(g): Solid Waste Assessment Reduction Proposed Resolution**

11. Chairman Boyd stated it was time to bring this issue to some closure. Commissioner Fulford stated that he thought the consensus was to pass this resolution within the normal progression of the budget process and that the Solid Waste budget had yet to be reviewed in the budget process. Commissioner Nelson concurred with Commissioner Fulford. Citizen Phil Calandra stated that the business community needed notice of the proposed changes in the assessment.

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

12. Commissioner Barfield asked about FEMA and the purchasing of mine materials. County Coordinator Parrish Barwick stated the county does not have any historical information for selling rock. Commissioner Fulford stated the county needed to have accurate measures of what it is producing.

**ITEM 7: Citizen's Forum**

13. Citizen Phil Calandra presented the priority focus of the Road Department that was approved at a prior meeting, with maintenance as the primary function of this department.

**ITEM 8: Commissioner Discussion Items**

14. Commissioner Monroe stated that he would like to see a fee waived for the permitting of a replacement trailer where constituents of his lost their trailer for fire. County Coordinator Parrish Barwick stated that he would get with Planning Official Bill Tellefsen in an effort to waive fees and keep costs as low as possible.
15. Commissioner Fulford stated that in-kind leases for the NFBA needed to be executed by the Chairman. Attorney Bird stated that the lease of the tower at the Road Department was ready to be signed by the Chairman. Hearing no objection, Chairman Boyd signed the lease for approval.
16. Commissioner Nelson stated he was still making arrangements for the Ernest Snead celebration. He also stated he was disturbed at Chairman Boyd's characterizations of citizens in his district as "complainers."
17. Commissioner Barfield stated she would like to see Commissioners' comments allowed at the first citizen's request item on the agenda. Chairman Boyd stated that citizens can ask to be on the agenda or get responses under citizen's forum. County Coordinator Parrish Barwick stated that the Chair could ask a Board member to respond to a citizen. Commissioner Barfield stated that Commissioners should feel free to respond at the early citizen's request item from this time forward.
18. Clerk of Court Kirk Reams asked for budget workshops to be scheduled for the month of August. Workshops were scheduled for August 9<sup>th</sup> at 9 am; 16<sup>th</sup> at 3 pm; 21<sup>st</sup> at 3:30 pm; 23<sup>rd</sup> at 9 am; and 30<sup>th</sup> at 4 pm. All of these meetings were scheduled to be held at the Annex.

**ITEM 9: Adjournment**

19. The warrant register was reviewed and bills ordered paid.
20. **On motion by Commissioner Fulford, seconded by Commissioner Monroe and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned.**

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

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Chairman