

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MINUTE BOOK 23, PAGE _____

JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR SESSION
January 17, 2013

The Board met this date in regular session. Present were Chairman John Nelson, Commissioners Betsy Barfield, Benjamin “Benny” Bishop, Hines Boyd and Stephen Walker. Also present were County Coordinator Parrish Barwick, County Attorney Buck Bird and Clerk of Court Kirk Reams.

ITEM 2: Public Announcements, Presentations & Awards

1. Court Administrator Grant Slayden introduced a memorandum of understanding with all counties of the 2nd Judicial Circuit, asking for participation in a Court Management System for eFiling. The consensus of the Board was that this item would be placed on the next Consent Agenda for approval.

ITEM 3: Consent Agenda

2. Commissioner Boyd requested that item 5(h), Green Industries Update, be placed as the first order of business. County Coordinator Parrish Barwick stated that item 5(g), Solid Waste Services RFP, be removed from the agenda. **On motion by Commissioner Bishop, seconded by Commissioner Barfield and unanimously carried, the Consent Agenda, consisting of the approval of the agenda as amended, was approved.**

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

3. Citizen Ed Wojciechowski expressed concern and outrage with the dirt road residents survey item on the agenda. Citizen Bill Brumfield said he did not receive a survey, as he lived on a private road. Citizen Ruby Davis stated that she lived on a dirt road and did not receive a survey.

ITEM 5(h): Green Industries Update

4. NFCC President John Grosskopf stated that his Board voted to move the Green Industries program back to the Madison campus and would be requesting release of the sublease of the current site. He further stated that all educational and office equipment would remain onsite. Commissioner Barfield spoke of a willingness to pool together resources in the future in order to have adequate enrollment numbers.

ITEM 5(a): Road Department Equipment Surplus Request

5. County Coordinator Parrish Barwick introduced the surplus items from both the Road Department and Fire Rescue Department. **On motion by Commissioner Bishop, seconded by Commissioner Walker and unanimously carried, the requested items were declared surplus.**

ITEM 5(b): Road Department Request for Trade of Bulldozer

6. County Coordinator Parrish Barwick requested that this item be moved to the workshop scheduled for January 22nd. **On motion by Commissioner Barfield, seconded by Commissioner Walker and unanimously carried, this request was approved.**

ITEM 5(f): Solid Waste Request for Equipment Purchase

7. County Coordinator Parrish Barwick introduced this item. Solid Waste Director Beth Letchworth stated that \$160,000 had been budgeted for a grapple truck and that the purchase price was for \$140,417. **On motion by Commissioner Walker, seconded by Commissioner Barfield and unanimously carried, the Board approved the purchase.**

ITEM 5(c): Dragline/Mine/Road Scenarios

8. Commissioner Boyd gave a presentation on the history of the mine up until the present and presented scenarios regarding road construction. The discussion on this issue was postponed until after the public hearing.

ITEM 6: PUBLIC HEARING – JEFFERSON COUNTY BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN MASTER PLAN

9. Consultant Scott Swearngen presented the final master plan to the Board. Clerk of Court Kirk Reams reviewed the changes made since the last reading. Citizen Wayne Frey expressed concern with a lack of paved shoulders on a stretch of US-90. Clerk of Court Kirk Reams stated that the CTST has identified this area as an area of concern and would be addressing in the future. **On motion by Commissioner Boyd, seconded by Commissioner Barfield and unanimously carried, the Board approved the master plan as presented.**

ITEM 5(c): Dragline/Mine/Road Scenarios (Continued)

10. Mine Consultant Randy Hatch stated the safest way to remove the material from the mine was via a drag line and that the County either needed to get in the mine business or not. **Commissioner Boyd made a motion to approve the recommendation by Mr. Hatch to purchase a drag line. The motion died for lack of a second.** Commissioner Bishop stated he could not support purchase of a drag line at the price presented. Citizen Phil Calandra stated that the Board needed to re-direct the budget into the purchase of rock and not go into the commercial mining business due to hidden costs. Citizen C.P. Miller stated that this issue had been going on for long enough. Citizen Paul Henry stated the life of the mine did not make the drag line purchase feasible. Citizen David Adams stated that buying a drag line was not in the best interest of the County. Citizen Kate Calvin stated that the issue of whether the County wanted to go into the mine business needed to be addressed. **On motion by Commissioner Barfield, seconded by Commissioner Walker and carried 4 to 1 (Boyd opposed), the Board elected to postpone the purchase of a drag line until the Board deems it necessary by placing it on a future agenda via majority vote.**

ITEM 5(d): Update on Dirt Road Residents Survey

11. Citizen Troy Avera stated that one-third of the surveys had been returned with a surprising number not requesting pavement. Citizen John Cobb stated that the roads had been voted on and that the Board needed to listen to the people of the County. Chairman Nelson stated that the survey was done by an independent group and not sanctioned by the Board. Citizen Lenora Adams stated the survey contained incorrect information and the issue had already been voted on. Commissioner Boyd requested a chance to respond. Chairman Nelson asked for a motion to proceed with discussion about a non-Board sanctioned survey. In hearing none, the Chair moved to the next issue.

ITEM 5(e): Road Criteria and Prioritization

12. Citizen Phil Calandra gave a presentation on the Road Department Committee's road criteria and prioritization process, which he described as open and transparent. Mr. Calandra stated that the prioritized list was to be used as a tool, not as the ultimate decision matrix for road projects. Commissioner Boyd stated this was the first time he had seen the criteria and that high density rural subdivisions had been left out of the process. Mr. Calandra responded that the criteria and process had been presented via multiple public workshops and meetings.

ITEM 8: Citizen's Forum

13. Citizen Paul Henry stated that grants should be evaluated as the whether they serve a necessary function of government.
14. Citizen C.P. Miller stated that the dirt road survey caused "problems" for him due to concerned citizens and that it should not have contained the County Coordinator's phone number.
15. County Coordinator Parrish Barwick stated that Fire Rescue Chief Mark Matthews and Clerk of Court Kirk Reams would be gauging the interest of the School Board in regards to selling/leasing the former administrative building for Fire Rescue needs.

ITEM 9: Commissioner Discussion Items

16. Commissioner Barfield stated she would like to see the naming opportunities criteria on a future agenda. She also gave an update on the RESTORE Act.
17. Attorney Buck Bird stated that law firm Bryant, Miller & Olive had submitted a redistricting proposal.
18. Clerk of Court Kirk Reams requested that he and Commissioner Barfield speak with Progress Energy regarding the possibility of a Rails to Trails program. There was no objection from the Board.

ITEM 11: Adjournment

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

Attest: _____
Clerk

Chairman