

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
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JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR SESSION
March 21, 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 3: Consent Agenda

1. Commissioner Barfield requested that the RESTORE ACT discussion be moved to the first item of business. It was the consensus of the Board to do so. Commissioner Boyd requested the minutes of the February 7th Regular Session be pulled in order to follow up on the Road Construction item. **On motion by Commissioner Barfield, seconded by Commissioner Walker and unanimously carried, the Board approved the consent agenda as amended.**

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

2. Citizen Lisa Martin stated that Martin Road repairs necessitated by the Tractor Supply construction needed to be placed on the next agenda.

ITEM 5(e): RESTORE ACT Discussion

3. Commissioner Barfield introduced this item. She requested the Board to issue either an RFQ/RFP for consultants that can assist the Board down the road with this process while moving forward with accepting applications for recommended projects. Consultant Steven Webster gave a slideshow presentation explaining that the county had to have a plan approved in order to spend any monies. Consultant Peggy Matthews presented a proposed deliverables list to the Board. Chairman Nelson recommended forming committees at a future meeting.

ITEM 5(a): April Water Conservation Month Proclamation

4. Steve Minnis, with Suwannee River Water Management District, introduced this item. **On motion by Commissioner Boyd, seconded by Commissioner Barfield and unanimously carried, this proclamation was approved.**

ITEM 5(b): Paul Thompson Road Improvements

5. Citizen Jeff Silver spoke to the Board about his concerns on the condition of Paul Thompson Road and stated it needed to be placed on the road pavement list. Commissioner Walker requested that the road be placed on the list to be paved if any of the original roads on the list could not be improved. Commissioner Boyd requested a workshop on the issue. Chairman Nelson stated that the road projects had been placed in the hands of the County Coordinator. This item was tabled until after the public hearings.

ITEM 7(a): PUBLIC HEARING – Tax Abatement Ordinance

6. County Attorney Buck Bird introduced the ordinance and recommended that the language state that the business provided “no less than ten employees” instead of “no less than ten employees every year.” He also stated that he was exploring whether the ordinance could be expanded to include more than manufacturing industries.

Commissioner Barfield explained that the percentage of abatement was done on an individual, case-by-case basis through the ordinance process. Citizen Paul Henry stated he did not support tax abatements in addition to projects where the county provided land and/or buildings. Commissioner Bishop expressed concern on the impact to existing businesses. **On motion by Commissioner Boyd, seconded by Commissioner Barfield and unanimously carried, the hearing was continued to a future night meeting.**

ITEM 7(b): PUBLIC HEARING – Sunday Alcohol Sales

7. County Attorney Buck Bird introduced this item as an amendment to an existing ordinance by including language to allow sales on Sunday except from the hours of 1 am to 7 am. Commissioner Walker stated he would be abstaining from the vote, as he had a qualifying family member with an alcohol license. Citizen Bill Snyder spoke against the ordinance. Citizens Tom Love and Kate Calvin presented the results of the online survey on Jefferson County Voice. Fewer than 10% of registered voters participated in the survey, with 80% in favor of the ordinance. Citizens Arun Kundra, Paul Henry and Phil Calandra spoke in favor of the ordinance. Citizen Keith Ward stated he did not understand how the prohibition of alcohol sales on Sunday currently hurt anyone or how approving the ordinance would help the county. Commissioner Bishop stated he would not be in favor of this ordinance, as it did not do anything to promote this as a better, safe place for families to live. Commissioner Barfield stated this would be an economic stimulus for the county and it was not the Board's job to regulate people's behavior. Commissioner Boyd stated that his conversations with people mirrored the survey, with most people in favor of the ordinance. **On motion by Commissioner Barfield, seconded by Commissioner Boyd and carried 3 to 1 (Bishop opposed; Walker abstained), the Board approved the ordinance.**

ITEM 5(b) – cont'd: Paul Thompson Road Improvements

8. **On motion by Commissioner Walker, seconded by Commissioner Boyd and unanimously carried, the Board approved placing Paul Thompson Road on the road paving list and, if funds became available, it would be the first road addressed.** County Coordinator Parrish Barwick stated that he had a budget and plan and would move forward at the Board's discretion. **Commissioner Boyd made a motion to have a workshop on the road bond budget and plan, which died for lack of a second.**

ITEM 5(c): Citizen Request for Full Transparency in Re-Districting

9. Citizen Kate Calvin requested that the Board meet with the School Board and come up with a list of priorities and criteria to address with re-districting. Commissioners Walker and Bishop spoke in favor of working with the School Board to avoid the confusion of two sets of maps. School Board Member Shirley Washington stated that the School Board should have been included from the beginning. Citizen C.P. Miller stated that prior re-districting resulted in a split census block where people are listed as belonging in one district, but actually vote in another. Commissioner Barfield stated her belief that the Board needed to move forward. Commissioner Bishop stated he was satisfied with his district and was willing to make a motion to leave the districts as currently drawn. Attorney Buck Bird stated that a legal opinion was necessary as to whether the current districts met the guidelines. Commissioner Bishop stated his desire to pay the consulting firm to give their recommendation on whether re-districting was needed and, if so, proceed in working with the School Board. **On motion by Commissioner Barfield, seconded by Commissioner Bishop and carried 4 to 1 (Nelson opposed), the Board approved having counsel work with the mappers and attorneys to make a**

recommendation as to whether re-districting was needed and to report to a future Board meeting.

ITEM 5(d): Naming Opportunities Policy

10. Commissioner Barfield introduced the changes made to this policy. **On motion by Commissioner Barfield, seconded by Commissioner Walker and unanimously carried, the policy as presented was approved.**

ITEM 6(a): Florida Safe Rider Lease

11. County Coordinator Parrish Barwick explained this was a continuation of a previous lease with new ownership. Economic Development Director Julie Conley stated the term would be for two years and broken only for cause. **On motion by Commissioner Barfield, seconded by Commissioner Walker and unanimously carried, the Board approved the lease.**

ITEM 6(b): US-19 Beautification Grant Update

12. This item was tabled to the next meeting.

ITEM 6(c): CDBG Grant Application Appeal

13. County Coordinator Parrish Barwick explained that the county's housing consultant, Guardian, disapproved of the state's decision regarding the CDBG application it prepared. He recommended not appealing the decision, but rather applying next year. **On motion by Commissioner Boyd, seconded by Commissioner Barfield and unanimously carried, the Board approved foregoing the appeal process.**

ITEM 6(d): Recreation Advisory Board Member Appointments

14. County Coordinator Parrish Barwick presented two applications for one position. Assistant County Coordinator Nick Flynt stated that the Recreation Advisory Board requested that the Demott Anderson be appointed. **On motion by Commissioner Barfield, seconded by Commissioner Bishop and unanimously carried, the Board approved Demott Anderson.**

ITEM 8: Citizen's Forum

15. Citizen C.P. Miller stated that when matters are delegated to the County Coordinator and someone else interferes, it sets bad precedent.

ITEM 9: Commissioner Discussion Items

16. Commissioner Walker stated that Planning Attorney Scott Shirley would be giving the Board direction on how to proceed with the Malloy Landing Road issue, as Land Development Code states that if a property owner closes access to a waterway, that property owner must provide an alternative route.
17. Commissioner Walker stated that he would like to rescind his vote on the Tyson Road paving surface, due to new information and would like to see this issue on the next agenda.

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18. Commissioner Barfield stated her desire to have the Board meeting date/time changed and requested this item be placed on the next agenda.
19. Commissioner Boyd stated that the contractor should make things right on Martin Road and that he would like to be included in the negotiations with Engineer Alan Wise.
20. County Attorney Buck Bird stated his legal opinion that the Tax Collector was covered under the county's professional liability policy but that she had sought counsel not approved by the insurance carrier. Chairman Nelson suggested the Tax Collector appear at a future meeting and answer any questions from the Board.

ITEM 11: Adjournment

21. The warrant register was reviewed and bills ordered paid.
22. **On motion by Commissioner Barfield, seconded by Commissioner Bishop and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned.**

Attest: _____
Clerk

Chairman