

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MINUTE BOOK 23, PAGE _____

JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR SESSION
December 20, 2012

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. Dick Bailar and Angela Gray presented the Legislative Booklets to the Board.
2. John Pat Thomas, representing Florida League of Cities, presented the Board an insurance refund check of \$18,203.

ITEM 3: Consent Agenda

3. **On motion by Commissioner Barfield, seconded by Commissioner Bishop and unanimously carried, the Consent Agenda, consisting of the approval of the agenda, was approved.**

ITEM 5(a): Dragline/Mine Discussion and Report

4. Mine Consultant Randy Hatch presented his report on the purchase of a dragline. Chairman Nelson stated he would like to see this brought back to the workshop on January 8th.

ITEM 5(b): EMS Annual License Agreement

5. Fire Rescue Chief Mark Matthews introduced this item. **On motion by Commissioner Bishop, seconded by Commissioner Boyd and unanimously carried, the EMS Annual License Agreement was approved.**

ITEM 5(c): Section 8 Housing Agreement

6. County Coordinator Parrish Barwick stated that the federal government would not allow Jefferson County to perform this program on its own. The federal government recommended the Northwest Florida Regional Housing Authority to oversee the Section 8 program, which would take Jefferson County out of the housing assistance business. **On motion by Commissioner Bishop, seconded by Commissioner Boyd and unanimously carried, the Board accepted the Coordinator’s recommendation to go with the NWFRHA.**

ITEM 5(d): Board and Committee Assignments

7. The Board collectively filled the remaining board and committee appointments and charged the County Coordinator’s Office with maintaining a list of said appointments.

ITEM 5(e): Sidewalk Project Prioritization

8. Chairman Nelson relinquished the gavel to Commissioner Barfield and explained that he had thought that the monies available were required to be spent on the US-19 sidewalk project. **On motion by Chairman Nelson, seconded by Commissioner Walker and**

carried 3 to 2 (Boyd and Bishop opposed), the Board agreed to use the money available from the state on the Lloyd area CR-158A sidewalk project. Commissioner Barfield returned the gavel to Chairman Nelson.

ITEM 5(f): NFCC/Green Industries/Small Business Development Discussion

9. Commissioner Barfield stated that NFCC's president informed her that he would be recommending pulling out of the Green Industries facility, while leaving 90% of the office and telecommunications equipment intact. She further stated that the agricultural equipment would be removed. Commissioner Barfield stated her desire to proceed with moving the Extension Office to the Green Industries site and that ideas for a small business incubator there should be brought before and decided on by the Board. Commissioner Boyd stated that NFCC had a moral obligation to keep their programs here and that the County would be stuck with the maintenance bill on the property. Attorney Bird stated that the County had no standing to force NFCC. The consensus of the Board was to request that the president of NFCC attend the next meeting.

ITEM 5(g): Alcohol Sales on Sunday Discussion

10. Citizen Arun Kundra stated the due to the Sunday sales restriction, Jefferson County businesses and government were losing revenues. He further stated that there were also matters of public safety, inconvenience and economic development at stake. Mr. Kundra requested that Board consider voting to eliminate the Sunday sales restriction. Citizen Jay Adams urged the Board to hold public hearings and pass the ordinance eliminating the Sunday restriction. Citizen Paul Henry agreed and stated that government needed to be out of the way. Attorney Bird stated that the Board would have to advertise and hold public hearings to amend the ordinance or the Board could request a non-binding referendum. Commissioner Walker stated it would be a good thing for Jefferson County. Commissioner Bishop asked the Sheriff to discuss any potential impact this may have on law enforcement. Sheriff David Hobbs stated that most law enforcement agencies are against lifting the restriction and that people living near drinking establishments probably would not want it lifted. Chairman Nelson requested that staff bring back what surrounding counties have in place and that the item be placed on a future agenda for further discussion and public input.

ITEM 7: Citizen's Forum

11. Citizen C.P. Miller asked the Board to consider placing the citizen's forum after the Commissioner discussion items on the agenda.

ITEM 8: Commissioner Discussion Items

12. Chairman Nelson confirmed that there would be a workshop on January 8th related to Solid Waste services and the Mine/Dragline discussion as well as some road scenarios discussed by Commissioner Boyd. A roads workshop was scheduled for 4 pm on January 22nd.
13. Commissioner Walker stated a desire to put together a Wacissa River Board/Committee and expressed concern about applying for grants and designations because of what regulations could come with these.
14. Chairman Nelson stated he was putting together a committee dealing with debris in his district.

ITEM 11: Adjournment

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

16. **On motion by Commissioner Bishop, seconded by Commissioner Boyd and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned.**

Attest: _____
Clerk

Chairman