

JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR SESSION  
May 21, 2013

The Board met this date in regular session. Present were Chairman John Nelson, Commissioners Betsy Barfield, Benjamin öBennyö 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. Chairman Nelson asked if the Proclamation of Civility could be placed on the agenda. Commissioner Barfield requested that it be placed on the agenda for the next meeting in order for the Commissioners to have time to review the document.
2. **On motion by Commissioner Barfield, seconded by Commissioner Walker and unanimously carried, the consent agenda—consisting of the approval of the agenda, and the minutes of the March 21<sup>st</sup> Regular Session—was approved.**

**ITEM 4: Citizen’s Request and Input on Non-Agenda Items**

3. Citizen Troy Avera stated he would like to see the drainage issue at the Jefferson Arts Center addressed.

**ITEM 5(a): Small Business Development Consulting Agreement**

4. Citizen Fred Golden presented a volunteer report prepared by his wife Bobbie Golden on Dr. Garrett’s progress. Dr. Garrett thanked the Board for the opportunity to get this started, as he was averaging 10 new clients a month. Commissioner Boyd stated that Small Business Development has been a missing piece in the county’s economic development efforts and that the County has the best Small Business Development program in the entire nation. **Commissioner Boyd made a motion to approve the contract as presented, to which Commissioner Walker seconded for discussion.** Commissioner Bishop questioned the salary as compared to other department heads and wondered if the Board was paying for a duplication of efforts available through colleges. Citizen Paul Henry stated his opposition to government being involved in the free market. Citizens Troy Avera, Pat Inmon, Eddie Yon, Tameka Jackson and Anne Holt spoke in favor of the program. Citizen Phil Calandra stated that with the County paying the consultant, there needed to be verification of results, to which Citizen Tom Dunn agreed. Commissioner Barfield stated she needed a little more detail and oversight in order to be comfortable with the service the Board is receiving. Commissioner Bishop stated that there needed to be a limit to what government does and he would like to see this become a part-time position. **The above motion failed 2 to 3 (Nelson, Barfield and Bishop opposed). On motion by Commissioner Barfield, seconded by Commissioner Walker and unanimously carried, the Board extended Dr. Garrett’s contract for an additional month in efforts to address Board members’ issues/concerns.**

**ITEM 5(b): SCRAP Recommendations**

5. County Engineer Alan Wise recommended Freeman Road and North Barber Hill Road as the SCRAP submittals. **On motion by Commissioner Barfield, seconded by Commissioner Walker and unanimously carried, the Board approved the recommendations.**

**ITEM 5(c): DEO Assistance Grant**

6. Economic Development Director Julie Conley informed the Board that she would like to seek technical assistance through a grant that would help initiating many of the suggestions in the visioning work performed by FSU. Commissioner Barfield voiced concern over competing with two other county proposals. Mrs. Conley stated that DEO officials informed her that submittals would stand on their own merit and not compete with one another. It was the consensus of the Board for Mrs. Conley to submit a proposal.

**ITEM 6(a): Surplus Vehicles**

7. County Coordinator Parrish Barwick submitted a list of eight vehicles he recommended to surplus. **On motion by Commissioner Barfield, seconded by Commissioner Walker and unanimously carried, the Board approved the list.** It was the consensus of the Board to advertise locally for the sale of the vehicles.

**ITEM 6(b): Solid Waste Administration Building**

8. County Engineer Alan Wise stated that he was able to negotiate a reduction of approximately \$30,000, for a total contract price of \$237,760. **On motion by Commissioner Bishop, seconded by Commissioner Walker and unanimously carried, the Board approved moving forward with the contract with RAM Construction.**

**ITEM 7: PUBLIC HEARING: Tax Abatement Ordinance**

9. Attorney Buck Bird presented the ordinance. Citizen Paul Henry stated he would like to see that if the County offers other benefits to a company such as buying property or constructing buildings that these companies not be allowed to benefit from the tax abatement. Attorney Bird confirmed Mrs. Conley's reading of the statute that requires a minimum of 10 new jobs be created. **On motion by Commissioner Bishop, seconded by Commissioner Barfield and unanimously carried, the ordinance was approved.**

**ITEM 8: Commissioner Discussion Items**

10. County Coordinator Parrish Barwick stated that Tractor Supply had sent their check into the county for the Martin Road repairs. He also recommended a re-districting workshop with the School Board to take place on June 24<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm.
11. Commissioner Walker stated that he was contacting Suwannee River Water Management District for the possibility of funding to help restore the springs at the Wacissa River. The consensus of the Board was to move forward with requesting funding.
12. Commissioner Walker inquired about private road maintenance. County Coordinator Parrish Barwick stated that to be maintained private roads needed to be brought up to county standards, to which Attorney Bird stated that citizens would have to commit adequate right of way and pay for bringing the road up to county standard. Commissioner Boyd stated he supported performing work if residents were willing to pay for it.
13. Commissioner Barfield stated it was time to develop a plan to analyze the railroad for inland port opportunities. She expressed appreciation to the city for participating in the US-19 Beautification Project. She also stated that it was time to conduct a performance evaluation on County Coordinator Parrish Barwick and look at his contract terms moving forward, as his one year anniversary was approaching.

**ITEM 9: Adjournment**

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

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

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Chairman