

JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
EMERGENCY SESSION
August 12, 2013

The Board met this date in emergency 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 2: County Budget Impact of Tax Collector from Budget to Fee Office

1. **On motion by Commissioner Boyd, seconded by Commissioner Barfield and carried 4 to 1 (Nelson opposed), the Board approved requesting DOR to consider a budget for the Tax Collector that did not exceed the current amount budgeted and allow the Board to set aside \$100,000 in reserves for contingencies.** Attorney Bird requested that Clerk of Court Kirk Reams send DOR the budget information for the last three years. Attorney Tim Qualls, representing Tax Collector Lois Howell-Hunter, stated that the Tax Collector had followed the letter of the law to a ötö and that DOR could not approve a budget subject to the BOCC approving the budget.

ITEM 3: Public Officials Liability Insurance Issues

2. **On motion by Commissioner Barfield, seconded by Commissioner Bishop and unanimously carried, the Board approved an official letter from the Board to Constitutional Officers regarding their desire to participate in the county's liability insurance.**
3. Attorney Paula Sparkman read a proposed letter from the Board to the Tax Collector involving not accepting counsel provided by the insurance company. Attorney Qualls stated he would be willing to work as co-counsel but this was not acceptable to the insurance company. Commissioner Barfield asked whether the Board and Mr. Qualls could go back and work with the insurance company in order to be covered. Commissioner Boyd stated that people have a right to counsel of their choosing, but not a right for someone else to pay for it. **On motion by Commissioner Barfield, seconded by Commissioner Walker and unanimously carried, the Board approved the letter as presented.**

ITEM 4: Citizen's Forum

4. Citizen Juanita Crumity stated the Board was trying to take Mrs. Howell-Hunter's rights away and needed to be thinking about its intent.
5. Citizen Dick Bailar stated that the policy has been in effect for decades and the county did what it was supposed to do, but the Tax Collector opted out without consultation.
6. Citizen Bud Wheeler stated that the county was in a bad financial situation because of the Tax Collector.
7. Citizen Jay Adams stated that it all came down to whether or not the Tax Collector was covered by the policy.

ITEM 5: Commissioner Discussion Items

8. Commissioner Boyd stated that the county has met its obligation and that the Tax Collector should not ask taxpayers to pay twice.
9. County Coordinator Parrish Barwick asked that a redistricting meeting be scheduled with the School Board. A meeting was tentatively set for August 19th at 6 pm.

ITEM 9: Adjournment

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

Attest: _____
Clerk

Chairman