

JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR SESSION  
January 7, 2014

The Board met this date in regular session. Present were Chairperson Betsy Barfield, Commissioners Benjamin öBennyö Bishop, Hines Boyd, John Nelson 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, with the Legislative Committee, presented a plaque to Ron Smith for his 10 years of service on the Legislative Committee.
2. Dr. Anne Holt, with Main Street, stated that the Smithsonian exhibit would arrive today and that she would love to see the Commissioners stop by.
3. Citizen Tania Johnson thanked the BOCC for what they did to help her housing situation on Turkey Scratch Road. She stated that she was again having issuesö this time with electrical and plumbing. Chairperson Barfield requested that County Coordinator Parrish Barwick and Commissioner Walker discuss further with Ms. Johnson to find a possible solution or remedy. Ms. Johnson expressed her displeasure that Duke Energy was using Turkey Scratch Road.

**ITEM 3: Consent Agenda**

4. Commissioner Boyd requested that Harry Reed with the CRTPA be moved to the first item under General Business. **On motion by Commissioner Walker, seconded by Commissioner Boyd and unanimously carried, the consent agenda as amended—consisting of the approval of the agenda and resolution of support for Commissioner Desloge—was approved.**

**ITEM 4: Citizens Request & Input**

5. Citizen Paul Henry discussed the history and prior issues with Ms. Johnsonø house and volunteered to help with any repairs.

**ITEM 5a: CRTPA Interlocal Agreement**

6. Harry Reed, Executive Director with the CRTPA, discussed the interlocal agreement and stated the Board needed to approve the updated agreement due to changes in the law. Citizen Phil Calandra inquired about representation and noted that Gadsden seemed to have more. He also inquired as to why Constitutional Officers were specifically excluded from serving. Mr. Reed responded that representation was based on population and that Constitutional Officers were excluded by state statute 339.175. **On motion by Commissioner Boyd, seconded by Commissioner Walker and unanimously carried, the Board approved the interlocal agreement.**

**ITEM 5b: Budget Amendment Request RE: Legal Fees**

7. Property Appraiser Angela Gray requested additional funds for legal services related to two pending lawsuits with FL Gas & Transmission and AT&T respectively. Mrs. Gray stated she had spoken with the liability insurance carrier but both lawsuits were excluded from coverage. She requested \$25,000 to get started with legal expenses and stated she

would come before the Board if she needed any additional funds. Chairperson Barfield asked Clerk of Court Kirk Reams where the money would come from, to which he responded contingency. After some discussion, it was determined that the additional funds could be expensed to professional services and if there was a shortfall it could be taken from contingency. Commissioner Boyd stated there was no other option than to grant Mrs. Gray's request and that this was a classic case of corporate bullying. He expressed his desire to stand behind Property Appraiser Gray on this issue. **On motion by Commissioner Boyd, seconded by Commissioner Walker and unanimously carried, the Board granted the Property Appraiser's request for \$25,000 for legal fees, to be taken from professional services.** Citizen Paul Henry inquired about the type of numbers that the companies were disputing. Mrs. Gray responded that for the FL Gas & Transmission suit, \$135,000 was on the line for the county and \$120,000 for the school board. She stated that for the AT&T suit, \$12,000 was on the line for the county and \$11,000 for the School Board. Chairperson Barfield inquired as to whether or not the school board was responsible for any of the legal fees, to which Mrs. Gray responded that, by statute, it is the county's responsibility. Commissioner Boyd thanked Property Appraiser Gray for the groundwork laid and her competency which he stated put the county in a good position.

**ITEM 5c: Wacissa River Park Committee Members**

8. County Coordinator Parrish Barwick stated that Commissioner Walker had submitted 5 names for this committee. Commissioner Walker said he wanted to keep it simple and selected 5 members that had something to do with the river and knew about it or used it. He stated that due to sunshine laws he could not be on this committee but had requested Clerk of Court Kirk Reams to serve in his place. He stated his intention was for this committee to meet and then bring issues before the Board. Commissioner Boyd stated his desire to add more people to this committee. He stated that some people on the list had strong opinions and he would like to see some people to balance it out. Commissioner Nelson said he respects the suggested committee of Commissioner Walker but that if Commissioner Boyd wanted to add people, then he felt he should be allowed to recommend and add someone to the committee as well. **On motion by Commissioner Walker, seconded by Commissioner Bishop and carried 4 to 1 (Boyd opposed), the Board approved Commissioner Walker's committee members.** Commissioner Boyd stated he felt the Board was making a mistake and that this matter needed more discussion as it was a multifaceted issue.

**ITEM 6: County Coordinator's Report**

9. County Coordinator Parrish Barwick stated he would be bringing some items related to the Planning Department and the Recreation Park before the Board in the near future.

**ITEM 7: Commissioner Discussion Items**

10. County Attorney Buck Bird stated that he was working with Clerk of Court Kirk Reams on the re-financing of the jail with Regions Bank and also on the American Hunter issue. He stated a resolution would be on the next agenda with terms and conditions. Chairperson Barfield inquired if there were any issues with re-districting, to which Attorney Bird stated not at this time.
11. Commissioner Nelson apologized for being difficult to get in touch with and stated he had three recent deaths in his family. He also complimented County Coordinator on his efforts with the Recreation Park and announced that on January 25<sup>th</sup> there would be a

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
MINUTE BOOK 23, PAGE \_\_\_\_\_

display of Corporal Sneed at the library. He further stated he would bring time and more details back to a future meeting.

12. Chairperson Barfield asked Clerk Reams for an update on the Tax Collector fees. Mr. Reams responded that we had received a check for roughly \$99,000 but he was still waiting to receive additional detail/documentation in order to pay the Tax Collector's legal invoices.

**ITEM 12: Adjournment**

13. The warrant register was reviewed and bills ordered paid.
14. **On motion by Commissioner Walker, seconded by Commissioner Nelson and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned.**

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman