

JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR SESSION  
March 4, 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 3: Consent Agenda**

1. **On motion by Commissioner Boyd, seconded by Commissioner Walker and unanimously carried, the consent agenda—consisting of the approval of the agenda and the minutes of the February 18<sup>th</sup> Regular Session—was approved.**

**ITEM 4: Citizens Request & Input**

2. Citizen Troy Averra informed the Board that Doug Alderson would be speaking at the Courthouse on April 24th regarding the economic impact of the trail system in Florida. He also mentioned the Iwa Jima memorial needing lights. Chairperson Barfield requested Mr. Averra to research the memorial and veterans involved in order for the Board to look into a possible resolution at a future date.

**ITEM 5(a): Planning Fees Discussion**

3. County Coordinator Parrish Barwick introduced this item and recommended the Board review the information in order to place on a future agenda. He stated that after Board discussion and/or a workshop, a public hearing would need to be held. Commissioner Bishop inquired about a few of the fee changes, to which Planning Official Bill Tellefsen provided additional clarification. After discussion, it was the consensus of the Board to have a one hour workshop on March 18<sup>th</sup> at 5 pm (prior to the next Board meeting) to discuss the planning fees in more detail. County Coordinator Parrish Barwick commended commissioner Bishop and Planning Official Bill Tellefsen for their work on this issue.

**ITEM 6: PUBLIC HEARING – CDBG Housing Grant Program**

4. County Coordinator Parrish Barwick introduced the above item and stated that the County was turned down over a year ago but was ready to move forward. David Fox with Fred Fox Enterprises explained the proposed grant to rehabilitate or replace at least 10 homes. The total amount was for \$775,000. Commissioner Barfield expressed displeasure at the idea of building in the floodplain. Planning Official Bill Tellefsen stated that people who only own land in the floodplain cannot be denied a building permit. Commissioner Boyd stated that the County cannot make a hard/fast rule about not building in the floodplain and stated his opinion that it was a property rights issue. Commissioner Bishop concurred and said it was not the Board's place to exert that type of authority. Planning Attorney Scott Shirley stated that construction should comply with all rules according to the floodplain plan. Citizen Paul Henry gave a slideshow presentation entitled öThe Failure of CDBG and Similar Programs at Reducing Poverty.ö Commissioner Nelson stated his appreciation for what Mr. Henry put together. Mr. Henry thanked the Board for their time. Commissioner Walker stated his opinion that the programs started to help the poor in rural areas but that the problems with the programs needed to be fixed where they began (higher government) rather than trying to fix from the bottom (the county). **On motion by Commissioner Boyd, seconded by**

**Commissioner Walker and unanimously carried, the Board approved Resolution No. 2014-030414-01 to submit the CDBG application. On motion by Commissioner Nelson, seconded by Commissioner Walker and unanimously carried, the Board approved Resolution No. 2014-030414-02 to adopt long-term and short-term goals. On motion by Commissioner Walker, seconded by Commissioner Nelson and unanimously carried, the Board approved Resolution No. 2014-030414-03 for local match. On motion by Commissioner Boyd, seconded by Commissioner Walker and unanimously carried, the Board approved Resolution No. 2014-030414-04 for the housing assistance plan with floodplain revisions per county requirements.**

**ITEM 5(b): Granny-Flat Tax Exemption**

5. Property Appraiser Angela Gray introduced this item and stated this was the first year of implementation. She stated there was a conflict with the ordinance and an administrative rule for her office. She requested the Board to amend the ordinance date back to January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2003 and that the total impact would be approximately \$1200. County Attorney Buck Bird stated this issue could be remedied with a simple resolution that amended the date to be in sync with the Florida Statute. **On motion by Commissioner Boyd, seconded by Commissioner Walker and unanimously carried, the Board instructed staff to initiate the process to advertise for an amended resolution.** Property Appraiser Angela Gray also stated she would be more than happy to give an annual report on the Granny-Flat tax so the Board could monitor this activity. County Attorney Buck Bird noted that this was only a temporary abatement that existed as long as ògrannyö lives in the house. After deceased or if the person no longer resided in the dwelling, the taxpayer would not get a break. It was requested that this hearing be placed on the April 15<sup>th</sup> meeting at 6:15 pm.

**ITEM 7: County Coordinator's Report – Code Enforcement Ordinance Revisions**

6. County Coordinator Parrish Barwick presented this item and stated his opinion that Code Enforcement is a tough issue with little reward. Chairperson Barfield stated the trend in other municipalities is to have a magistrate rather than a Code Enforcement Board. Attorney Buck Bird stated his opinion that he did not like the idea of a magistrate, as the Code Enforcement Board provided citizens with local representation with the option to appeal to the Board of County Commissioners and then the Circuit Court. Planning Attorney Scott Shirley recommended retaining the jurisdictional component but for the County to have the process complaint driven. Commissioner Nelson stated he favored the democratic process over a magistrate. Commissioner Boyd stated that all of these issues had been discussed previously. He further added that the idea of code enforcement was not pleasant, but needed to be addressed. Commissioner Walker inquired about the complaint process, to which County Coordinator Barwick stated there were stipulations and no anonymous complaints. Mr. Barwick added that the more the public knew about the process, the more òneighbor versus neighborö feuding would take place, with the expectation that the government could solve their issues. Solid Waste Director Beth Letchworth stated the county needed a process to follow. She stated that currently after she writes letters there was no further action she could take and had no ability to make the person correct the violation. Planning Attorney Scott Shirley stated that it was routine for governmental entities to reduce fines in order to achieve compliance and this would be at the Board's discretion. The lien option was briefly discussed. Commissioner Boyd stated this was a copy of the ordinance the Board had already passed with minor revisions and asked if the Board was going to leave the ordinance òas-isö or adopt the changes. Chairperson Barfield recommended the proposed amendments to the ordinance be placed on the next agenda.

**ITEM 8: Commissioner Discussion Items**

7. Clerk of Court Kirk Reams requested the Board review several policies he had emailed in order for them to be placed on the next agenda. He also gave an update on the Mamie Scott project, stating he finally received more than one proposal and that he, Commissioner Walker and County Coordinator Barwick made up the current committee to review LAP projects.
8. Commissioner Boyd requested a workshop to discuss road projects, financial figures and the plans for after all of the road bond money is spent. Chairperson Barfield recommended this be incorporated as another item on the Transportation Plan workshop. This workshop was set for Thursday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6 pm.
9. Commissioner Nelson stated that veterans from this community would be honored on April 5<sup>th</sup> at the High School at 7 pm.
10. Chairperson Barfield stated she had received an email from Chris Doolin with the Small County Coalition regarding an upcoming briefing at City Hall and also a dinner for members at the Doubletree on March 27<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-9:00. She stated he encouraged all Commissioners to attend if possible. Mrs. Barfield also noted that the Board won the Chamber of Commerce's Chili Challenge as well as the challenge from Property Appraiser Angela Gray and requested that Clerk of Court Kirk Reams place Property Appraiser Angela Gray on the April 15<sup>th</sup> agenda under "Presentations."
11. The warrant register was reviewed and bills ordered paid.
12. **On motion by Commissioner Bishop, seconded by Commissioner Walker and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned.**

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

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Chairman