

JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR SESSION  
May 6, 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. Chairperson Barfield requested pulling item c of the consent agenda and placing under General Business as item 5(b). **On motion by Commissioner Nelson, seconded by Commissioner Walker and unanimously carried, the consent agenda—consisting of the approval of the agenda as amended and the Minutes of the April 15<sup>th</sup> Regular Session—was approved.**

**ITEM 4: Citizens Request & Input on Non-Agenda Items**

2. Dick Bailer, on behalf of the Legislative Committee, stated that he has not yet submitted a report on the results of the Legislative session. He stated that, at this point, every item pursued by the County has been accomplished and it has been a öbanner year.ö He added that the report was not yet submitted to the Board because the Governor vetoed some items two weeks after the session last year.
3. Citizen Paul Henry wanted to clarify his remarks noted in the previous set of minutes to reflect that he was not singling out the Watermelon Festival, but all social events to which the government contributes taxpayer dollars. He also stated he had further researched and appreciated the information on the öBed Tax.ö
4. Citizen Jeri Kimbrel stated there was a serious problem with the proliferation of stray dogs and cats. She stated that the bulk of animal control was currently handled by law enforcement but she wanted Jefferson County to be up to the standard of other counties such as Wakulla and Gadsden. She stated she was bringing this before the Board now because it was almost budget season and would be bringing more information to a future meeting.
5. Citizen Paul Henry inquired about the status of Harrell Nut Company. Commissioner Boyd stated that one Human Resources employee was presently at the office and that Harrell Nut Co. was not able to move the equipment before the season this past year due to delays related to construction. He stated that Harrell would move equipment from Camilla to the new office after the current season. County Coordinator Parrish Barwick stated he saw some equipment moved in about a month ago.

**ITEM 5a: EDC Workshop Request**

6. Director of Economic Development Julie Conley stated they were in the final stretch of preparing the Vision/Action Plan in order to present in June. She requested a joint workshop between the Board and the Economic Development Council to take a final look and make comments/additions/revisions before finalizing the plan. Chairperson Barfield recommended having the workshop after the June 3<sup>rd</sup> Board Meeting at a approximately

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10 am or as soon as the regular session was over. She requested Clerk of Court Kirk Reams to notice the workshop.

7. Julie Conley also discussed the North Florida Economic Development Academy. She stated this was specifically for elected officials in rural Florida and requested the Board schedule some time to have a mini-academy. She stated she would get with the Clerk on a date/time. Chairperson Barfield suggested waiting until July or August and including some planning strategies from Marcia Elder. Commissioner Bishop stated he wanted to meet with companies that want to bring jobs and "get going." He also stated the county has had strategies but keep hitting roadblocks and that the county needed to decide if it wanted to be business friendly or keep things the way they are. Ron Cichon, Chair of the Economic Development Council stated he liked Commissioner Bishop's comments and that he had been working on the EDC for a long time. He noted that Economic Development was both complicated and competitive.

**ITEM 5b: SCOP Bid Recommendation**

8. Chairperson Barfield introduced this item and clarified that it was for 1 foot of widening and 4 foot shoulders on North Salt Road / Bassett Dairy Road from US-90 to the end of Bassett Dairy Road. County Engineer Alan Wise answered in the affirmative and stated that the county could put asphalt on that portion of the corridor and after that point it would just be re-surfacing. Commissioner Nelson stated this was a positive result of Road Bond work performed in 1992 and that it was good for the county to take advantage of these programs. **On motion by Commissioner Nelson, seconded by Commissioner Walker and unanimously carried, the Board approved the SCOP bid.**

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

9. County Coordinator Parrish Barwick stated he had two items. Mr. Barwick stated that the 3-4 days of rain had hindered the work efforts of the Road Department and exposed some of the weaknesses with the roads. He stated there were several issues with spring water coming out of roads. Commissioner Bishop noted that the county may have to pull ditches to make roads passable.
10. County Coordinator Barwick stated that Road Superintendent David Harvey had retired and congratulated him on 10+ years of service to the County.

**ITEM 7: Commissioner Discussion Items**

11. Commissioner Nelson stated there was a Wind/Flood Mitigation workshop coming up and that the closest one would be in Santa Rosa County later this month. He stated the County could request a workshop from the Florida Association of Counties. Chairperson Barfield stated she had emailed to request FAC come to Jefferson County for a mini-workshop or to present at a future Board meeting but has not yet received a response.
12. Commissioner Nelson discussed upcoming Memorial Day events. He stated that the VFW and American Legion would be placing flags on graves across the county. He also stated that the American Legion was having a breakfast at 8 am on May 26<sup>th</sup> at the American Legion hall on Water Street.
13. Commissioner Boyd stated he was pleased that County Coordinator recognized retired Road Superintendent David Harvey. He stated that road maintenance in a small county with dirt roads is never ending. He stated his opinion that Mr. Harvey did not retire but

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was forced out by people removing his authority and that after years of persecution he was tired and gave up. He highlighted some of the improvements to the Road Department and the roads during Mr. Harvey's tenure as the Road Superintendent. In closing, he stated that the County would greatly miss Mr. Harvey.

**ITEM 8: Adjournment**

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman