

JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR SESSION
June 17, 2014

The Board met this date in regular session. Present were Chairperson Betsy Barfield, Commissioners Benjamin öBennyö Bishop, Hines Boyd and John Nelson. Also present were County Coordinator Parrish Barwick, County Attorney Buck Bird, Land Attorney Scott Shirley and Chief Deputy Clerk Tyler McNeill.

ITEM 2: Public Announcements, Presentations & Awards

1. Item 2(a) was postponed until Commissioner Nelson arrived at the meeting.
2. Citizen Paul Henry announced a fundraiser to benefit the three people injured in the recent Taylor County shooting at the Ford dealership, including Officer Lundy. He stated that the Ford dealership would be raffling an F150.

ITEM 3: Consent Agenda

3. **On motion by Commissioner Boyd, seconded by Commissioner Bishop and unanimously carried (3-0; Nelson and Walker not present), the Board approved the consent agenda, consisting of the Approval of the Agenda and the Minutes of the May 20th and June 3rd Regular Sessions.**

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

4. Citizen Martha Lamar inquired about the condition of Lamar Road. Commissioner Bishop stated he was aware of the road's condition but that it was a private road. County Coordinator Parrish Barwick stated the county has a program to help citizens with maintenance of private roads for a fee. Commissioner Boyd stated that a year ago the County would not have been able to help but that now the citizens now had options.

ITEM 2a: Recognition of Janaysia Jennings

5. Commissioner Nelson recognized Ms. Janaysia Jennings for her kind words and patriotism on Memorial Day. He also recognized her grandfather, a fellow Vietnam veteran.

ITEM 6: PUBLIC HEARING: Amendment to the Granny-Flat Tax Ordinance

6. County Attorney Buck Bird introduced this item and provided a brief history of this ordinance. **On motion by Commissioner Boyd, seconded by Commissioner Nelson and unanimously carried (4-0; Walker not present), the Board approved Ordinance No. 2014-061714-01.**

ITEM 5a: Action on Jefferson County Vision ACTION Plan

7. Director of Economic Development Julie Conley stated she was ready to submit the Vision ACTION plan to the Division of Economic Opportunity. Marcia Elder gave a brief presentation on the Vision ACTION plan that covered the Planning and Administration of the plan as well as the strategic priorities. **Commissioner Boyd made a motion to approve the submission of the plan, to which Commissioner Nelson**

seconded for discussion. Commissioner Bishop inquired as to why the County needed this plan, to which Julie Conley replied it now gave specific/tangible actions/goals for the Economic Development Council and different groups to achieve. Commissioner Boyd noted that the plan outlines how all groups can work together to move the County in the direction it needs to go. **The above motion was unanimously carried (4-0; Walker not present).** Chairperson Barfield requested a quarterly update on the plan.

ITEM 5b: Library Repairs Budget Request

8. Library Director Kitty Brooks gave a presentation on the various services that the public library currently provides. She noted that the state aid came in higher than anticipated whereas the county has often received a cut in the amount of aid. She stated her desire to renovate the library in order to utilize the space more efficiently. Mrs. Brooks introduced consultant Jeff Hunt with Library Interiors of Florida. Mr. Hunt stated that the current facility was one of the better spaces for repurposing and was real asset to the community. He stated he was in the process of measuring the space, inventorying the contents and reviewing the activities/functions of the library. He stated the primary objective was to improve the function of the library, but the secondary objective would be improving the appearance. Commissioner Nelson noted that the library was heavily used. Commissioner Boyd stated it was not just a library but also a community center. Mrs. Brooks provided a document with a proposed budget amendment using the state aid surplus and corresponding figures for a renovation. In addition to this budget amendment of \$82,000, she requested \$30,000 additional funds for carpet and new air conditioning in the Community Room. Librarian Natalie Binder provided a brief summary of the small, community collections and the future of libraries. Commissioner Boyd recommended that Mrs. Brooks request the budget amendment and move forward with the renovations. Commissioner Bishop stated he was more comfortable discussing this item during budget season and inquired as to whether Mrs. Brooks had gone out for bid on carpet to which she answered in the affirmative. Commissioner Boyd stated there was over \$80,000 in funds that we should make available immediately. Chairperson Barfield clarified that Mrs. Brooks was requesting \$30,000 in addition to the \$82,000 of state aid, to which Mrs. Brooks answered in the affirmative. County Coordinator Parrish Barwick noted that new carpet was not a maintenance issue but a capital improvement. Citizen Paul Henry stated that reasonable user fees would generate more money. Library Director Kitty Brooks stated that the library could not charge user fees or it would lose state aid money. Citizen Phil Calandra commented that it was not just a library but now an information center. He also noted that in many years the state aid was cut and how important it was to use the surplus funds. He implored the Board to find the money to help the library. Commissioner Bishop suggested Mrs. Brooks bring a budget amendment for \$82,000 (the surplus state aid) to the next meeting and asked Mrs. Brooks to submit the request for the additional \$30,000 for carpet in her budget for next year. Citizen Dick Bailar expressed his support for this cause and noted that any match or funds the County put towards the library would positively affect the County's state aid received next year based on the formula used. Commissioner Nelson supported the budget amendment for \$82,000. Chairperson Barfield requested that the budget amendment be noticed in the paper and placed on the next agenda. Citizen Elizabeth Robinson, president of the Friends of the Library, spoke favorably of Mrs. Brooks and her staff.

ITEM 5c: Recognition Process for Deceased Elected Officials

9. Commissioner Nelson introduced this item and recommended coming up with a process to recognize deceased elected officials. Citizen C.P. Miller recommended placing pictures/plaques of deceased elected officials. He recommended a committee be formed to come up with ideas. Chairperson Barfield requested that Mr. Miller bring a

recommendation of committee members to the next Board meeting. Citizen Paul Henry urged the Board not to spend tax money on this. Commissioner Boyd stated he did not need recognition or his picture on a wall after he passed away and that he earned his recognition while serving.

ITEM 7: County Coordinator's Report

10. County Coordinator Parrish Barwick discussed the complaints he had received about cleaning up around the Courthouse. He stated that the Courthouse grounds were on a schedule and there was no sense in cleaning it based on demand when the crew was scheduled to mow/clean again right before the Watermelon Festival.

ITEM 8: Commissioner Discussion Items

11. Attorney Scott Shirley discussed the issue of ATVs being allowed on unpaved roads that was mentioned by Commissioner Walker at the previous meeting. He stated he had prepared a draft ordinance and that the statute had been amended to allow the Board to designate certain roads for ATVs, whereas it had previously been all or no dirt roads. County Coordinator Barwick noted that in 2006 the Board opted out via ordinance to prevent ATVs on dirt roads and would need to have a public hearing to opt in. Chairperson Barfield requested that Attorney Shirley email the draft of the ordinance along with road segments being requested for ATV use. **She also requested this item be noticed for public hearing at the night meeting in July.**
12. Commissioner Bishop thanked everyone for the kind words/thoughts/prayers regarding the loss of his mother. He stated had an issue with the banners around the Courthouse for the Watermelon Festival. Attorney Bird stated there was no ordinance in place prohibiting these banners, to which Commissioner Bishop requested an ordinance be drafted banning this type of signage. Commissioner Bishop requested this item be placed on the next agenda. Commissioner Nelson felt more research needed to be done to which citizen Paul Henry concurred. Citizen Troy Avera stated that DOT had requested the banners be removed from their previous location on power lines.
13. Commissioner Nelson stated he had also received inquiries about the Courthouse grounds but had told the citizens to be patient and that the grounds would be tended to.
14. Commissioner Boyd stated that he wanted to discuss facility maintenance in the budget discussions. He also stated his desire to place the progress of the road projects on the next agenda and discuss numbers/available funds.
15. Chairperson Barfield inquired about the status of the audit, to which Chief Deputy Clerk Tyler McNeill responded the signed representation letter would be submitted tomorrow and should be the last item needed. Mrs. Barfield requested a future Land Development workshop prior to holding a public hearing on this item. Attorney Shirley noted this would require two public hearings. Commissioner Boyd expressed his desire to have a joint workshop with the Board and the Planning Commission. **The joint workshop was set for July 8th at 6 pm.** Mrs. Barfield inquired about the status of the budget process, to which County Coordinator Barwick stated all relevant documents would be sent to the department heads by end of the week. He also stated that Clerk of Court Kirk Reams would be setting dates in the near future for the various budget hearings.

ITEM 9: Adjournment

16. The warrant register was reviewed and bills ordered paid.
17. **On motion by Commissioner Bishop, seconded by Commissioner Boyd and unanimously carried (4-0; Walker not present), the meeting was adjourned.**

Attest: _____
Clerk

Chairman