

JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR SESSION
June 3, 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 Chief Deputy Clerk Tyler McNeill.

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—was approved.**

ITEM 5a: Grant Submission Proposal for Implementation of Vision Action Plan

2. Director of Economic Development Julie Conley stated there was funding available from the Department of Economic Opportunity and she requested to submit a proposal. She also stated the deadline is Friday and there was no match required from the County. **Commissioner Boyd made a motion to approve applying for the grant, to which Commissioner Walker seconded for discussion.** Commissioner Bishop requested more information, to which Julie Conley responded that the \$59,000 applied for would be used a variety of ways: to help market tourism activities and oversee the action plan and track progress; to supplement the EDC budget, including improvements to the website; towards improvements already applied for by the City; and for web-based activities, as DEO likes to see technology used and it would help improve the grant score. County Coordinator Barwick stated thatö in his opinionö that was a continuation of the plan already approved by the Board. Citizen Paul Henry stated this is what is wrong with government and stated we would be adding another layer of bureaucracy. Commissioner Boyd stated we were a small community with limited resources and that he had no reservations with accepting a little help. Commissioner Bishop stated he would likely support the grant submission but wanted to see results. He added that the County had been funding Economic Development for approximately 14 years and wanted to see results. **The above motion was unanimously carried.**

ITEM 5b: Proposed Financial Policies

3. Clerk of Court Finance Director Charles Culp introduced the four proposed financial policies. Commissioner Nelson stated the policies closely resembled the same policies used at the state level. Commissioner Boyd stated he liked the policies but did not care for the öpersonal liabilityö language included. County Coordinator Barwick stated he appreciated the time and effort put into these policies. Chairperson Barfield recommended the Commissioners review the policies and email Mr. Culp any recommended revisions/modifications for him to incorporate before bringing back before the Board for approval.

ITEM 5c: County Road Damage due to Heavy Vehicles

4. County Coordinator Parrish Barwick introduced this item for discussion. He stated that this issue has existed since he began with the County. He acknowledged that because this is a farming/rural agriculture community and there are activities such as logging it will continue to be an issue. He stated his intent was to have a discussion about what to do.

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Commissioner Bishop commented that the County could not prohibit people/local businesses from moving product, as they paid taxes in the County and were within their rights to use the roads. Coordinator Barwick stated he was not talking about local citizens and gave an example of a log truck that came from Valdosta and then used Ashville Highway to cut over to US-19. Chairperson Barfield inquired if the County could pay local law enforcement to monitor this issue. Commissioner Boyd stated the Board could not stop this type of activity but could establish consequences for people that caused damage. Citizen Paul Henry stated there were three options to dealing with traffic enforcement: education, engineering and enforcement. Commissioner Boyd listed Martin Road as an example of how to possibly deal with damage done to County roads. Citizen Dick Bailer stated that in the past Aucilla Shores had required loggers to put up a cash bond before starting work. Jeff Main, a consulting forester, stated he appreciated the even-handedness of the Board with regard to this issue. He stated that much of the time the loggers were caught in the middle because the trucks caused the damage but the land/location of the land was often the issue. Commissioner Boyd stated there were no consequences for the loggers at this time and therefore no incentive to stay off the road when it was wet. Chairperson Barfield requested Attorney Buck Bird, County Coordinator Parrish Barwick and Forester Jeff Main get together to discuss different ideas and come back to a future meeting with possible solutions. Commissioner Bishop added that Brooks County was a nearby county that also utilized cash bonds for loggers and would possibly be a good county to visit/discuss options with.

ITEM 6: County Coordinator's Report

5. County Coordinator Parrish Barwick gave an update on various projects currently being worked on by the Road Department.

ITEM 7: Commissioner Discussion Items

6. County Attorney Buck Bird provided a copy of the road limit ordinance and stated it only applied to paved roads.
7. County Coordinator Barwick stated he had been working with the Sheriff to find a shooting range for Sheriff's deputies to utilize.
8. Commissioner Boyd stated the county should address the potential retirement of Building Inspector Wallace Bullock and that, since the county currently shared Mr. Bullock with Madison County, the discussion should take place prior to Madison County and Jefferson County's budgets were set. County Coordinator Barwick stated he would like to explore the idea of Mr. Bullock possibly working exclusively for Jefferson County but on a part-time basis. He stated this might result in some amended office hours/availability but that Mr. Bullock was an asset he would like to retain, even if on a contract basis. Commissioner Boyd asked Mr. Barwick to meet with Mr. Bullock and bring a recommendation back to the Board at a future meeting.
9. Commissioner Nelson thanked people that had attended the Memorial Day breakfast and explained how meaningful it was to him as a veteran.
10. Commissioner Boyd stated the 4th of July fireworks show would not be taking place this year. He noted that Mr. Bullock was still interested in doing the show in the future and that he hoped the money put forward by the County would be rolled over to go towards the fireworks show next year.

ITEM 8: Adjournment

11. The warrant register was reviewed and bills ordered paid.
12. **On motion by Commissioner Walker, seconded by Commissioner Boyd and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned.**

Attest: _____
Clerk

Chairman