

JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR SESSION  
September 3, 2013

The Board met this date in regular session. Present were Chairman John Nelson, Commissioners Betsy Barfield, Benjamin öBennyö Bishop, Hines Boyd 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 and Awards**

1. Dr. George Cole and Steve Minnis, with the Suwannee River Water Management District, gave a presentation on the area's water supply.

**ITEM 3: Consent Agenda**

2. **On motion by Commissioner Boyd, seconded by Commissioner Bishop and unanimously carried, the consent agenda—consisting of the approval of the agenda—was approved**

**ITEM 5(a): TDC Action Items**

3. TDC Director Nancy Wideman presented the annual report, budget and marketing plan. **On motion by Commissioner Barfield, seconded by Commissioner Walker and unanimously carried, the Budget and Marketing Plan were approved.** Mrs. Wideman presented appointees Emily Anderson, Gerrold Austin, Gretchen Aversa, Clyde Simpson and Merry Ann Frisby. **On motion by Commissioner Barfield, seconded by Commissioner Walker and unanimously carried, the Board approved these appointments.**

**ITEM 5(b): Professional Services Agreement with CPI Consulting**

4. EDC President Ron Cichon presented this item in place of EDC Director Julie Conley. Chairman Nelson stated that CPI was the only firm that responded to the RFP. Commissioner Barfield stated that the Economic Development website needed updating. She also inquired as to whether any monies could be used to help fund feasibility studies for natural gas. CPI Consulting owner Marcia Elder stated that it could become part of the vision implementation, but the feasibility study was a separate study that DEO stated there was no money available under the visioning contract. **On motion by Commissioner Boyd, seconded by Commissioner Barfield and unanimously carried, the professional services agreement was approved.**

**ITEM 5(c): Small Grant Program Guidelines**

5. Citizen Dick Bailar and Commissioner Hines Boyd presented this item. Commissioner Boyd stated it was important to contribute to Economic Development. Commissioner Barfield expressed concern with funding things not affecting economic development and that there needed to be more accountability for utilizing the funds. **On motion by Commissioner Boyd, seconded by Commissioner Bishop and unanimously carried, the Small Grant Program Guidelines, including an amended requirement to include reporting to the County Coordinator, was approved.**

**ITEM 5(d): Re-districting Issues / Discussion**

6. County Coordinator Parrish Barwick stated that he had received no information back from the School Board. Commissioner Boyd stated that each Commissioner was going to meet with their corresponding School Board member to discuss the preference for the maps. Chairman Nelson stated that he did not want to alienate the School Board. Commissioner Barfield stated her desire to wait until after the School Board met to decide whether or not they were going to participate. Commissioner Walker stated he was under the impression that the School Board would meet and inform the County Commission on the time and date to have a joint meeting.

**ITEM 5(e): Dr. Dallas Garrett Resignation**

7. County Coordinator Parrish Barwick presented Dr. Dallas Garrett's resignation to the Board. Commissioner Boyd stated he would like to defer his comments to the end of the Commissioners' Discussion Item.

**ITEM 5(f): Fire Assessment Discussion**

8. Property Appraiser Angela Gray stated that the differences between residential and commercial needed be evaluated with the fire assessment. She requested to meet individual with Commissioners and summarize their comments in a future workshop. She further stated that any changes had to be in place before December 31<sup>st</sup> in order to be effective for the 2014/2015 fiscal year. Fire Rescue Chief Mark Matthews asked if there were going to be any discussions concerning the 2013/2014 Fire Assessment due to his concern over dipping into reserves and possible cuts. Chairman Nelson stated that the Board was only looking at 2014/2015 at this time.

**ITEM 6(a): County Coordinator's Report / Flood Map Issues & Discussion**

9. Planning Official Bill Tellefsen requested a workshop on this issue. County Coordinator Parrish Barwick stated that the flood plain ordinance needed to be passed before February 2014. A workshop was set for October 8<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm.

**ITEM 6(b): County Coordinator's Report / CDBG Proposals**

10. County Coordinator Parrish Barwick presented this item. Chairman Nelson stated he favored Fox due to their experience in housing. Both he and Commissioner Barfield expressed concern over Guardian losing last year's grant. **On motion by Commissioner Boyd, seconded by Commissioner Barfield and unanimously carried, the Board proceeded with Fox as its CDBG housing liaison.**

**ITEM 6(c): County Coordinator's Report / Natural Gas Line Feasibility Study**

11. County Coordinator Parrish Barwick presented this item. He stated that a feasibility study would cost in the area of \$12,000. Clerk of Court Kirk Reams stated this would be a good first step because Harrell Nut Company was an end-user that would need this and it would create jobs. He stated that the county had already missed out on a hydroponic farming business that required natural gas. County Engineer Alan Wise stated that his firm had done a lot of work on this for the county in the past and that a utility operator would need to be found. Citizen Paul Henry stated that if this was a viable enterprise then why hasn't the private sector done it yet.

**ITEM 6(d): County Coordinator's Report / Small Grant Program Request**

12. County Coordinator Parrish Barwick presented this item involving Concerned United Peoples request for funds. Commissioner Barfield requested that this item be brought back to the committee, to which Commissioner Bishop agreed. Citizen C.P. Miller stated that the Board had given money previously for other events and that it was not fair for this to be kicked down the road. **On motion by Commissioner Barfield, seconded by Commissioner Walker and carried 4 to 1 (Nelson opposed), the request was moved through the committee process.**

**ITEM 7: Citizen's Forum**

13. Citizen Phil Calandra inquired that someone from the County check to see if Harrell Nut Company was fulfilling its promises. Commissioner Boyd stated that the company wanted little fanfare and that any disparaging of the company would endanger further economic development.

**ITEM 8: Commissioner Discussion Items**

14. Commissioner Barfield announced a prison tour at 2:30 pm today. She also voiced concerns about the old County Extension building and that there was an opening on the Planning Commission for District 4 for which she would like to advertise.
15. Clerk of Court Kirk Reams announced budget hearings on September 16<sup>th</sup> and September 30<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm.
16. Commissioner Boyd stated that Dr. Dallas Garrett had designed to take over the Business Development Program in Lake County, where they were paying him over \$100,000 per year. He stated it was disgraceful the way Dr. Garrett was treated here by the Board.

**ITEM 9: Adjournment**

17. The warrant register was reviewed and bills ordered paid.
18. **On motion by Commissioner Boyd, seconded by Commissioner Bishop and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned.**

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

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Chairman