

JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR SESSION
January 6, 2015

The Board met this date in regular session. Present were Chairperson Benjamin öBennyö Bishop, Betsy Barfield, Hines Boyd, Eugene Hall and Stephen Walker. Also present were County Coordinator Parrish Barwick, County Attorney Buck Bird and Clerk of Court Kirk Reams.

ITEM 1: Call to Order, Invocation, Pledge of Allegiance

1. Chairman Benny Bishop led the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

ITEM 2: Public Announcements, Presentations & Awards

2. Sheriff David Hobbs read the proclamation for fallen Deputy Sheriff Chris Smith and presented the framed proclamation to Mr. Smith's family.

ITEM 3: Consent Agenda

3. Commissioner Barfield requested pulling item 3(c) to discuss under general business. **On motion by Commissioner Barfield, seconded by Commissioner Walker and unanimously carried the consent agenda as amended—consisting of the approval of the agenda and the minutes of the December 16th Regular Session—was approved.**

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

4. Citizen Ricky Sanders stated he began renting a house off Aucilla Highway about two years ago. He stated there was mold under and inside of the house due to sitting water. He brought the issue to the Board because he stated his health concerns for future renters. He stated his desire for future code inspections to address these types of issues.

ITEM 5a: Requested Resolution on Banning Fracking

5. County Coordinator Parrish Barwick briefly introduced this item and stated it was a statewide request. Amy Datz with the Environmental Caucus of Florida asked the Board to consider the ban on fracking (hydraulic fracturing). Commissioner Walker stated he had spoken with Representative Halsey Beshears and recommended the board wait to learn more about issue and legislation before voting on a resolution to ban fracking. Ms. Datz stated that a group called Rethink Energy could come to a future meeting if it was the desire of the Board. Commissioner Hall asked about bills currently in the state legislature and also whether any other counties have approved this legislation, to which Ms. Datz said none that she was aware of yet. Commissioner Boyd stated this was not an issue the Board could decide and stated that as a matter of policy, he believed it was a bad idea for a County Commission to get involved in this resolution. Chairman Bishop stated it was the consensus of the Board to put this item on hold and learn more before passing a resolution. Citizen Paul Henry stated it would be wise to do more research and not wait just until the legislation passes to take action. Citizen Fred Williams stated that Florida Power and Light has requested money to do fracking and stated he does not want to pay higher utility bills to fund it.

ITEM 3(c) from Consent Agenda: Small Grant Request for BikeFest

6. Commissioner Barfield inquired about the amount approved for BikeFest. County Coordinator Parrish Barwick stated that the committee had recommended the \$2000 instead of the \$1500. Citizen Paul Henry stated he was opposed to the county giving this

money for BikeFest. Citizen Dick Bailar spoke in favor of this grant and stated it would bring people to Jefferson County. He also commended Executive Director of the Chamber of Commerce Katrina Richardson. Commissioner Hall inquired if this was to be a recurrent event, to which Ms. Richardson stated it was her hope that it would. Citizen Phil Calandra stated this was similar to the headwaters of the Wacissa River and that this item is like Goose Pasture and other places along the Wacissa River that have the ability to positively impact economic development. Chairman Bishop stated his concern that they were giving more money than initially discussed. **On motion by Commissioner Barfield, seconded by Commissioner Walker and carried 4 to 1 (Bishop opposed), the Board approved the small grant request for BikeFest.**

ITEM 6a: County Coordinator – Road Department Update

7. County Coordinator Parrish Barwick stated the county was towards the very end of the Road Construction and he would be coming to the Board in the near future for direction with regards to the Road Department. Commissioner Walker complimented the Road Department on how the roads were being maintained. Citizen Phil Calandra stated that the project had achieved what they set out to achieve and inquired about future plans for roads on the road inventory. County Coordinator Barwick stated there were 17 miles of roads that needed to be addressed in the near future before the not repairable. Commissioner Barfield recommended a presentation of workshop with all options for road projects moving forward, not just those involving borrowing money. Chairman Bishop expressed his opposition to the idea of borrowing more money to work on roads. Commissioner Boyd commented that the reduced budget of the Road Department made it to where they could barely keep up with the maintenance and stated there were ways within the budget to sustain well-maintained road systems. Chairman Bishop stated the Board would wait for the report/presentation before further discussion. Citizen John Nelson stated that by paving the roads, the county had reduced expenditures of maintaining the roads.

ITEM 7: Commissioner Discussion Items

8. Commissioner Gene Hall stated the Martin Luther King Jr. parade would be held on January 19th and encouraged everyone to attend. He also said there would be an event after the parade at the MLK Center.

ITEM 8: Adjournment

9. The warrant register was reviewed and bills ordered paid.
10. **On motion by Commissioner Barfield, seconded by Commissioner Walker and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned.**

Attest: _____
Clerk

Chairman