

JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR SESSION
March 17, 2015

The Board met this date in regular session. Present were Chairperson Benjamin oBennyö Bishop, Betsy Barfield, Hines Boyd, Eugene Hall and Stephen Walker. Also present were County Attorney Buck Bird, County Coordinator Parrish Barwick 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. Chairman Bishop introduced special guests at the meeting: Congresswoman Gwen Graham's representative Alex Quintana and local Boy Scouts present to observe the meeting.

ITEM 3: Consent Agenda

3. Commissioner Barfield requested pulling item 3(b), Lloyd Sidewalk, to be placed on an agenda for a future meeting. **On motion by Commissioner Walker, seconded by Commissioner Hall and unanimously carried, the consent agenda as amended, consisting of the minutes of the March 3rd Regular Session, was approved.**

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

4. Economic Development Director Julie Conley gave an update on Project Game Changer and stated she was working with the legislature to secure funding for both the sports complex and infrastructure to support other commercial development in the area. She went on record to thank Senator Montford and Representative Beshears for their help.

ITEM 5a: St. Augustine Road SCOP Bid Recommendations

5. Clerk of Court Kirk Reams introduced this item. There were three bids on this project, which runs on St. Augustine Road from Highway 59 westward to US-27. Clerk Reams recommended low bidder CW Roberts for the project, which came in under budget at a cost of \$390,670.77. **On motion by Commissioner Barfield, seconded by Commissioner Walker and unanimously carried, the Board approved CW Roberts as the low bidder.** Clerk Reams stated that with extra funds, he will ask the state if they can move another project up. Citizen Paul Henry stated his opinion that any extra funds should be returned to the state. Citizen Troy Aversa reminded the Board that St. Augustine Road was approved as a heritage road via resolution.

ITEM 5c: Audit of Road Improvement Spending

6. Commissioner Boyd introduced this item. He stated he had reviewed the minutes and saw where the Board had approved \$100,000 from this year's budget Road Department budget for work on the roads. He stated he had no issues or questions with how the Clerk's Office had handled funds, but wanted a breakdown of how and where the money was spent and requested a managerial audit. Chairman Bishop stated that more work was performed than expected and that there were 44 miles of improvements/pavement instead of the 25 miles the Board had anticipated. Commissioner Walker praised the County Coordinator for all that he had accomplished. Commissioner Hall inquired if the money spent would be audited by our annual audit, to which County Coordinator Barwick

responded in the affirmative, as all public funds are audited. Citizen Troy Avera stated the citizens of the county deserved some form of accountability. Citizen Paul Henry asked if all road projects were bid out, to which Clerk Reams responded Peavy was the low bidder for the asphalt. Citizen Delfine Hill, owner of Simpkins Financial Group, stated that it was always good to do an independent audit or review of a specific area/expenditure in question. Citizen Phil Calandra stated he would be amazed if the info wasn't readily available and did not understand the need for an audit. He also noted that the Board had approved the Road Department to do all of the prepping of the roads early in the process. Citizen Kate Calvin inquired about the cost of an audit. Commissioner Walker stated he would only support an audit in an instance where the County had spent money on a road and then turned it private, as was the case with the Malloy Landing Road issue several years ago. Commissioner Boyd made a public records request for information from the County Coordinator's Office. Commissioner Barfield requested that Chairman Bishop work with County Coordinator to provide the requested information.

ITEM 6: County Coordinator – Road Construction Project Completion Report

7. County Coordinator Barwick presented this report to the Board and provided an in-depth overview of the spreadsheet from the last meeting. He discussed the road project, which began two and a half years ago up until the present.

ITEM 7: Commissioner Discussion Items

8. Commissioner Barfield stated that Regional Mobility Plan projects were being ranked and some would be funded but some would not. She also noted that the Transportation Plan was a huge benefit to Jefferson County in this process. Commissioner Barfield also discussed the proposed Natural Bridge closure and stated that Leon County wanted Wakulla and Jefferson Counties to bear the burden of the \$2 million temporary bridge.
9. Commissioner Hall commented on how functional and aesthetically pleasing the library was after the renovations.
10. Commissioner Walker noted that the Wacissa River Headwaters project would begin this week.
11. County Attorney Buck Bird notified the Board of an upcoming lawsuit regarding re-districting.
12. Clerk of Court Kirk Reams stated the bids for the Watermill Road project should be opened and ready before the next morning meeting. He also informed the Board of Project Greenlight, an initiative by the Clerk of Courts across the state that would allow people to pay traffic citations with no collection fees for one day only.

ITEM 8: Adjournment

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

Chairman

Attest: _____
Clerk