

JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR SESSION
April 21, 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 Chief Deputy Clerk of Court Tyler McNeill.

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

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

ITEM 2: Public Announcements, Presentations & Awards

2. Tobacco Prevention Specialist Chastity McCarthy briefly discussed services provided via public health and provided a copy of a newsletter recently disseminated to the community.
3. The MVFD presentation/recognition was postponed until 7 pm.
4. Katrina Richardson, Director of the Monticello-Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce, thanked the Board for their support of the first annual Bike Fest.
5. Property Appraiser Angela Gray gave the Board an update on SB 972/HB 695. These bills affect the Value Adjust Board and would take appointments from the Board and give the authority of appointing to the legislative delegation.

ITEM 3: Consent Agenda

6. **Commissioner Barfield made a motion to approve the consent agenda, to which Commissioner Walker seconded for discussion.** Commissioner Bishop inquired about where the money for the budget amendment would come from, to which Nancy Wideman with the Tourist Development Council stated the money was in reserves and they were just increasing the line item with those monies. **The motion carried unanimously.**

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

7. Citizen Roy King provided an update on his comments from the April 7th regular session regarding the upper Aucilla logging protection issue. He requested a resolution from the Board supporting the Suwannee River Water Management District purchasing this area. Chairman Bishop stated he had spoken with the SRWMD's head of land acquisition, who stated they had been in discussions on acquiring this land for a while but no decisions had been made.

ITEM 5a: Vision ACTION Plan Report

8. Ron Cichon, Chair of the Economic Development Council, provided a report on the Vision ACTION plan.

ITEM 5b: Report from VISION Action Plan Implementation Team

9. Economic Development Director Julie Conley was not present, but Dick Bailar provided a very brief update on this item.

ITEM 5c: LHAP Update

10. County Coordinator Parrish Barwick introduced this item and stated the LHAP was coming up for renewal and the new plan would be good for three years through 2018. He noted the only change was that assistance would be limited to a one-time basis, but that all limits/amounts were the same. Commissioner Barfield inquired if applicants could apply for assistance every 20 years instead of once per lifetime. Coordinator Barwick stated it could be worded that way, but the issue was the same people using the program over and over. Coordinator Barwick also noted this was for site built homes only not mobile homes and his opinion was the mobile homes would need constant rehabbing/repair. Commissioner Walker inquired if the assistance provided is specific to the owner or the property, to which Mr. Barwick stated the property. Citizen Paul Henry stated his support for the LHAP as written and that if the same people were being helped again and again, then something was wrong with the system. **On motion by Commissioner Barfield, seconded by Commissioner Walker and unanimously carried, the Board approved the certificate and resolution approving the LHAP.**

ITEM 5d: Fire Department Vehicle Transfer

11. Fire Chief Mark Matthews introduced this item and requested donating a 2005 F350 ambulance to Wakulla County and a 1980s 2.5 ton military transport to the Monticello Volunteer Fire Department. Chairman Bishop noted that if the county sold these items at a surplus auction, they could make a little money instead of just donating the items. After a brief discussion, it was the consensus of the Board to donate these two items as requested by Chief Matthews.

ITEM 5e: Wacissa Springs Restoration Project Gap Funding Request

12. County Engineer Daryle Gray presented this item and requested additional funding for the projected shortfall of this project (roughly \$11,000). He stated these funds would be used for the access stairs. Commissioner Walker stated his belief this shortfall could be found within the current budget and without additional funding. Mr. Gray provided a brief update on the project and stated everything was going well.

ITEM 6: County Coordinator

13. County Coordinator Barwick discussed the issue of Mosquito Control and stated that due to budget cuts, the Health Department would no longer be able to oversee Mosquito Control for Jefferson County. He stated the funding would still be there if the county would match it. Commissioner Barfield recommended an RFQ/RFP to have mosquito control performed for the County with the only other alternative being the county running mosquito control in house. Commissioner Boyd stated it was most practical to move it under a department in the County that had infrastructure already in place. Commissioner Bishop inquired if any drivers were certified to mix the chemicals, to which Commissioner Barfield responded no. Health Department Director Kim Albritton stated that two positions were vacated and not being replaced and that the Health Department no longer had the infrastructure to administer this program. Citizen Paul Henry stated that this was a specialized function like an ambulance and that when an ambulance transported someone, they were sent a bill. The consensus of the Board was to find a way to do this in-house with current resources.

ITEM 7: Commissioner Discussion Items

14. Commissioner Barfield announced the Bike Rodeo that would be held on Thursday, April 9th from 4:30-6:30 at the County Extension Office. She also brought up the discussion of

the Kirk family and riding on rural county roads. Mr. Kirk spoke before the Board about his wife Kathy being injured in Madison County during a bike ride and requested the Board look into leash laws to prevent this type of accident. Commissioner Bishop stated there was a certain risk incurred by riding out on rural, county roads.

15. Commissioner Barfield stated she would provide an update on the RESTORE act at the next meeting and requested an update of the Golden Peanut Company (formerly known as Harrell Nut Company). Commissioner Boyd stated that the company had re-organized and consolidated the pecan processing operations in Camilla, Georgia but that the company had the intention of re-purposing the building in Jefferson County.
16. Commissioner Barfield mentioned that there was a Land Development Code workshop tonight as well as Kitty Brooks retirement party from 4:30-6:00 pm.
17. Commissioner Boyd inquired about some roads being mowed and stated it was a long-standing policy of the county to not mow the road sides until the clover and rye seeds had seeded out.
18. Commissioner Hall complimented the staff at the Recreation Park for their hard work and noted that the basketball goals needed new nets.
19. Commissioner Bishop stated that there were some trees on Highway 90 east that were overhanging the road and needed attention.

ITEM 8: Adjournment

20. The warrant register was reviewed and bills ordered paid.
21. **On motion by Commissioner Barfield, seconded by Commissioner Hall and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned.**

Attest: _____
Clerk

Chairman