

JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR SESSION  
April 21, 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 Attorney Buck Bird and County Coordinator Parrish Barwick.

**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 7<sup>th</sup> 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. Julie Conley stated there was a ton of community buy-in and that the EDC's top priority right now was re-doing the website and they

were currently working on content development. She stated they were also working on a sales map of the Industrial Park. City Clerk Emily Anderson briefly commented on the city's work on downtown improvements, particularly obtaining additional funding to help with pedestrian crossings, ADA issues, landscaping and signage. Dick Bailar and Jed Dillard also commented on their roles regarding this plan.

**ITEM 5b: Land Development Code Request for Public Hearing**

9. County Attorney Scott Shirley presented a short memorandum containing final changes made to the Land Development Code as a result of the workshop that was held on April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2015. He noted that most changes pertain to home businesses. He requested the Board approve, advertise and schedule the Land Development Code for Public Hearing. The consensus of the Board was to move forward with advertising, with the first public hearing set for May 19<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm and the second public hearing set for June 16<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm.

**ITEM 5c: Lloyd Sidewalk Projects**

10. Commissioner Barfield gave an overview of the Lloyd sidewalks and stated she would be requesting funding from the Board for three sections. She stated that coming before the Board was a last resort, but she had tried various avenues to secure funding but had not been successful. She provided an estimate of \$75,000 for the construction costs of three sections of sidewalk, with a contingency of \$25,000 for a total request of \$100,000. Citizen James Bolan stated the county was worried about thousands of dollars such as this when there were millions wasted on other items. Citizens Pat Pearson, Meva Cuyler and Carol Miller spoke in favor of the sidewalks. Citizens Charles Parrish and Willie Hawkins stated concerns about the sidewalk impeding on property. County Coordinator Parrish Barwick requested any specific questions be directed to his office to be addressed. Commissioner Boyd stated he had received calls about the sidewalk that were not positive and stated he did not believe this was a place to spend \$75,000. Commissioner Barfield stated that per the Clerk of Court, money could be transferred from maintenance or contingency. Chairman Bishop stated he was not wholly opposed to the sidewalks but was not in favor of expending contingency money. Commissioner Hall concurred with Chairman Bishop regarding his concern for expending contingency money. Commissioner Boyd recommended looking into a program for sidewalks similar to the program he recommended for assisting citizens fund the paving of private roads. Commissioner Barfield noted the Board had received several different unanticipated revenues, such as the check from Harrell Nut Company and money from the Tax Collector. Commissioner Boyd said this was a dangerous way to budget. Chairman Bishop stated he would support the sidewalks but not all at one time. **On motion by Commissioner Barfield, seconded by Commissioner Walker and carried 3 to 2 (Bishop and Boyd opposed), the Board approved funding the three sidewalk sections in Lloyd for up to \$100,000.**

**ITEM 2a: MVFD Presentation/Recognition**

11. Monticello Volunteer Fire Department Chief Mike Long recognized three recent volunteers that had graduated from fire school: Amber Houston, Austin Malloy and James Hightower. He also presented bunk gear to Mr. James Hightower.

**ITEM 5d: Outdoor Courts/Facilities at Howard Middle School**

12. Commissioner Hall stated this was in its early stages, but he had spoken with School Superintendent Al Cooksey as well as the School Board about fixing up the basketball court at Howard Middle School. He presented the Board with a letter of support from Police Chief Fred Mosley and stated he was not requesting money from the County, but rather its blessing to proceed. He stated his hopes that local businesses, fraternal organizations and the community would fund the resurfacing of the court as well as new goals/nets, etc. Commissioner Boyd inquired if there was anything the County could do, to which Commissioner Hall stated occasional maintenance and a letter of support to the School Board.  
**Commissioner Boyd made a motion that the county provide support in the form assistance from the Recreation Park and Road Department as needed, to which Commissioner Hall seconded.** County Coordinator Parrish Barwick stated an inter-local agreement would likely be needed as well as consideration of the liability/insurance issues. Chairman Bishop requested that County Coordinator Barwick draft a letter to the school Board expressing the Board's support. **The above motion carried unanimously.**

**ITEM 5e: Library Director Position**

13. County Coordinator Parrish Barwick stated the Library Director position had been advertised on the website, in the local paper and also on the state library website but the county only received 2 applications. He stated he was considering advertising for 30-45 more days, including in the Tallahassee Democrat. He also recommended listing the starting salary range at \$40,000 per year. Commissioner Boyd inquired if the two applicants were qualified, to which Coordinator Barwick responded in the affirmative. Commissioner Walker stated he was fine moving forward with the two applicants that responded. County Coordinator Parrish Barwick suggested a committee of five people consisting of himself, former Library Director Kitty Brooks, an appointee from the Friends of the Library, an appointee from the Library Advisory Board and one citizen. Commissioner Barfield suggested citizen Paul Henry as a choice for the citizen appointee.

**ITEM 6: County Coordinator**

14. County Coordinator Barwick stated there was Department of Transportation right of way issue as a result of some quit claim deeds. He stated there was nothing needed other than simply giving DOT the authority to see if right of way is correct.

**ITEM 7: Commissioner Discussion Items**

15. County Attorney Buck Bird provided an update on the re-districting lawsuit and stated the County had counsel in place and had filed a motion to dismiss that should be heard in 14-20 days. He stated there was a very slim chance it would be dismissed, but that the county's attorney was working with the School Board's attorney on the matter.
16. Commissioner Boyd presented the Board with Michel Swearer as his new appointment to the Planning Board. Commissioner Barfield stated this would need to be approved by the Board and requested it be placed on the next consent agenda. Commissioner Boyd stated he would have Mr. Swearer's application placed on the next consent agenda.
17. Commissioner Barfield stated the county sponsored Dirty Pecan bike event had been postponed to May 9<sup>th</sup>. She also stated that the Regional Mobility Plan was being advertised for April 27<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 ó 7:30 pm at the Annex. She stated they would be discussing transportation projects for the 5-, 10-, and 15-year plans. She also stated that CRTPA Executive Director Harry Reed was retiring and a search committee was being formed to find a replacement Executive Director.

**ITEM 8: Adjournment**

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman