

JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR SESSION
September 2, 2014

The Board met this date in regular session. Present were Chairperson Betsy Barfield, Commissioners Benjamin öBennyö Bishop, Hines Boyd, John Nelson 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. Ron Cichon gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ITEM 2: Public Announcements, Presentations & Awards

2. Dr. George Cole gave a presentation on the Suwannee River Water Management District. He stated this was a östate of the resourceö presentation and presented strategic priorities for the SRWMD moving forward. Commissioner Bishop inquired about Amendment I, to which Dr. Cole responded it was a sensitive issue and the SRWMD had not yet taken a stance and he therefore did not have much information at this time. Commissioner Walker inquired as to whether the agricultural cost share program required action from the Board or if it was for individual farmers, to which Dr. Cole responded it was for individual farmers. Commissioner Boyd commented that Sneeds Smokehouse Sink had been lower than he had ever seen and now was higher than he had ever seen in the last month and inquired if staff had a chance to look at it as a recharge point. Dr. Ann Shortelle with the SRWMD stated that as a conservation and recharge measure, the Sneeds Smokehouse Sink had exceeded expectations.
3. Chairperson Barfield presented and read aloud Resolution No. 14-090214-01 in support of the Jefferson Correction Institute. Assistant Warden Antonio Hudson thanked the Board for their support.

ITEM 3: Consent Agenda

4. **On motion by Commissioner Walker, seconded by Commissioner Nelson and unanimously carried, the consent agenda—consisting of the approval of the agenda and the minutes of the August 19th, 2014 Regular Session—was approved.**

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

5. Citizen Tanya Johnson stated that Duke Energy trucks had caused damage to her house and that she had come before the Board in January and was still having issues. County Coordinator Parrish Barwick stated he had tried to make contact and will gladly go to her house any time that Ms. Johnson sets an appointment. Chairperson Barfield requested that Mr. Barwick set a date to visit Ms. Johnson's house and inquired about what activity by Duke Energy was taking place. County Coordinator Barwick stated that a transmission line was being placed and it was activity by Duke Energy, not the County.

ITEM 5b: Legislative Committee Update

6. Dick Bailar with the Legislative Committee gave an update on the reorganization of the Jefferson County Kennel Club and stated JCKC now had two years to develop a strategy. He stated that although no one on the committee knew anything about gaming/gambling,

they did know the process and would be involved as much as the Board wanted them to be. Chairperson Barfield requested Mr. Bailar continue to monitor and reach out to Mr. Andris and all parties involved with JCKC and also commended the Legislative Committee for their efforts.

ITEM 7: PUBLIC HEARING: Amended Fire Assessment Ordinance

7. County Coordinator Parrish Barwick introduced this item and provided an overview of the Fire Assessment Ordinance. He stated that the City of Monticello had approved this action and the County was not approving the fees, but rather approving the Board's mechanism to collect these fees. Fire Rescue Chief Mark Matthews provided information on the funding of the Fire Station as well as operational costs. He stated that with the inclusion of city residents' assessments, the next budget will restore volunteer line items to levels of 2007/2008. Citizen Troy Avera stated that the City of Monticello did a great job training and funding their volunteer fire department and urged the board to better fund the volunteer fire departments. He stated that some people could not afford this increase and that the issue could have been approached better. He also stated he did not want the City of Monticello folded into other volunteer fire departments. County Coordinator Barwick stated the new assessment would allow additional funds to go to Monticello volunteers. Chief Matthews noted that the City of Monticello's Volunteer Fire Department had always been included in the budget with other volunteer fire departments. Citizen Gretchen Avera stated she had a question regarding how her apartments were assessed, to which the Board directed her to Property Appraiser Angela Gray. Citizen Betty Russell stated that increases in fees were difficult for people of a certain age and on a fixed income and urged the Board to reconsider. Citizen Winston Lee asked if this amount was in addition to the fire assessment currently being paid, to which City Clerk Emily Anderson stated there is presently no city fire assessment but that nominal amount of money was given from ad valorem revenue to the Monticello Volunteer Fire Department. Mr. Lee also inquired about his building which doubles as a single family residence and a commercial building. Mr. Barwick directed Mr. Lee to speak with Property Appraiser Angela Gray. Mrs. Gray stated that the fee structure set by the Board provided that the square footage was not charged twice. She stated that it was a flat fee for residential and that the commercial building's square footage is what was charged for the commercial assessment. Citizen Tom Dunn stated he had the highest regard for the men and women that worked and volunteered as firefighters. He stated that he was on a fixed income but had no problem paying his fair share. He also stated he would be willing to work with local churches or other groups to assist up to three people that had difficulty paying their assessment. County Coordinator Parrish Barwick also stated he would help one family. Citizen Paul Henry stated people had not been treated equal and that he supported the inter-local agreement. Citizen David Frisby stated he would love to see MVFD and JCFR continue to work together. Citizen Merry Ann Frisby stated that as a city resident, she only pays \$6-\$7 a year for fire protection. She also stated her desire for the Board to address breathing apparatuses for MVFD and all volunteer fire departments. Chief Mark Matthews stated he had applied for air packs for the county firefighters and volunteers. Citizen Thomas Love stated he was wholeheartedly in favor of this but asked if the amount for unincorporated areas had decreased. He stated he did not want the county to have an "overwhelming bonus" of money. Citizen Dan Hamedani inquired about fire hydrants on Casa Bianca Road, to which Fire Chief Mark Matthews stated that Jefferson Communities Water System put in the hydrants, not the County. Property Appraiser Angela Gray stated she would be glad to provide any figures back to the Board at future budget hearings and noted that if the city raised the exemption amount, it would help offset some of the new assessment. Commissioner Walker stated he was glad the county was moving forward. Commissioner Bishop said that like everyone else he did not like increase in fees and having to pay but

that if he was going to utilize the services, then he needed to pay for it. Commissioner Boyd stated his issue is not with the issue of today but with the issue of the past. He stated he felt the County had a means to solve a lot of the problems discussed today but made decisions that took the County in a different direction. He stated that although the equity issue may have been solved, he questioned whether the Board went about it right. He noted he would not be supporting the ordinance. Commissioner Nelson spoke in support of the ordinance and said that even though he was on a fixed income, he would be paying his fair share. **On motion by Commissioner Walker, seconded by Commissioner Nelson and carried 4 to 1 (Boyd opposed), the Board approved the Amended Fire Assessment Ordinance.**

ITEM 5a: General Election Canvassing Board Alternate

8. County Attorney Buck Bird stated that the canvassing board consisted of the Supervisor of Elections, County Judge and Chairman of the Board but if there was a conflict, there is a method to appoint alternates. He stated that since Chairperson Barfield was involved in the General Election, an alternate and backup alternate would need to be appointed. Clerk of Court Kirk Reams stated that the Board had already approved Commissioner Walker as the alternate. **On motion by Commissioner Bishop, seconded by Commissioner Nelson and unanimously carried, Commissioner Walker was approved as the alternate with Commissioner Boyd as the backup alternate.**

ITEM 5c: Lloyd Historic District/Land Development Code

9. Planning Attorney Scott Shirley gave a briefing on the history of the Lloyd Historic District as it pertained the Land Development Code. He presented a map with corrections that included the eastern part of the historic district. He noted that by historic district standards, these standards were not very onerous. He also stated that the next version of the Land Development Code draft will have the corrected Lloyd Historic District language. Chairperson Barfield requested clarification about the interchange business zoning south of Lloyd. Attorney Shirley stated that all of the area in the historic district is mixed use suburban residential and that the interchange business is just north of the historic district. Chairperson Barfield suggested a display or map to be shown at a future hearing. Citizen Pat Pearson stated there were different regulations and versions of regulations and requested that everything go back to the requirements of the national register. Attorney Shirley stated that the national register designation by itself has no regulatory effect unless the County adopts standards for uses within the historic district. He stated that if the County repealed local regulations, it could threaten the national register status. Ms. Pearson clarified that she would like the same standards to apply to the whole district, to which Attorney Shirley discussed a landowner that took issue with some of the standards when this was originally done. Citizen Santa Hokinson stated she agreed with the provisions that protected the historic district but that if the west and east were separated per the map, then the map did not match the text. Attorney Shirley explained that the ordinance is already in effect but the language was not yet included/codified into the Land Development Code. Chairperson Barfield requested that Attorney Shirley update the map, correct the language in the Land Development Code and identify how the east is different from the west. Attorney Shirley stated that he would place the above requested items on the next agenda.

ITEM 8: Commissioner Discussion Items

10. Property Appraiser Angela Gray provided an update on the litigation with Florida Gas Transmission Company and stated that if a judge ruled against the County, we would have to repay \$329,000. Clerk of Court Kirk Reams stated there was ample reserve to

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MINUTE BOOK 23, PAGE _____

pull funds from via budget amendment if necessary. Commissioner Boyd commented that one option would be to include enough in contingency to cover this amount just in case. He stated the Clerk and Board might want to look at increasing contingency by drawing down the reserve.

11. Commissioner Walker stated he was ready to get started on the Wacissa River Headwaters and noted that Engineer Alan Wise was no longer with Preble-Rish. Clerk of Court Kirk Reams noted that the county had an 18 month window to complete the project.
12. Commissioner Boyd stated he would like an agenda item for the next meeting on the status of roads spending and an update on the figures.
13. Chairperson Barfield inquired about the Value Adjustment Board, to which Clerk Reams stated he was going to advertise this week for a citizen volunteer and would look back at the minutes from a prior meeting to see if the Board appointee had already been determined.

ITEM 9: Adjournment

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

Attest: _____
Clerk

Chairman