

JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
Regular Session
Courthouse Annex
February 21, 2019
6:00 P.M.

The Board met this date in regular session. Present were Chair Betsy Barfield, Commissioners Stephen Fulford, Eugene Hall, J.T. Surles and Stephen Walker. Also present were County Attorneys Buck Bird and Scott Shirley, County Coordinator Parrish Barwick and Clerk of Court Kirk Reams.

1. Chair Barfield called the meeting to order. Commissioner Stephen Walker led the invocation; Commissioner Surles led the pledge of allegiance.
2. Citizen Kelly Fillyaw addressed the Board on behalf of Jimmy Kinsey and stated he would be willing to pay the tax amount, but could not afford the full amount owed.
3. **On motion Commissioner Walker, seconded by Commissioner Surles and unanimously carried, the Board approved the Consent Agenda consisting of: Approval of Agenda, General Fund/Transportation Vouchers: 2/12/2019 & 2/21/2019; BOCC Minutes for 2/7/2019 Regular Session and BOCC Minutes for 2/7/2019 Public Hearing.** Chairman Barfield requested that items C and A be switched on the agenda. **On motion by Commissioner Surles, seconded by Commissioner Walker and unanimously carried, the Board approved the change to the agenda.**
4. Commissioner Hall introduced Derrick Jennings to the Board and stated his intent to appoint Mr. Jennings as his designee to the Planning Commission. Chair Barfield requested this item be placed on the next agenda.
5. Commissioner Hall introduced the City of Monticello road construction item and acknowledged both City Mayor John Jones as well as City Manager Steve Wingate in the audience. He stated that the city currently receives a little over 11% of the gas tax funds. City Manager Wingate noted that the \$100,000 from gas tax is money used to run the city street department. Mayor John Jones asked if city roads inside of county districts could receive funds for roads, to which Clerk of Court Kirk Reams stated it would take an agreement between the city and county. Commissioner Hall noted that multiple Commissioners had districts with portions inside the city limits and that it was not unique to district two. Citizen Ann Herring inquired why only a portion of Brock Road was paved, to which County Coordinator Parrish Barwick stated that a plantation owns land on both sides of a portion of the road and the county has a right of easement/right of maintenance, but the plantation did not want asphalt. Citizen James Bramblett expressed concerns with York Street and Marvin Street. Citizen Jacqueline Seabrooks inquired if Brock Road was still considered a hurricane evacuation route, to which County Coordinator Barwick stated it likely was but other roads in the area can be utilized in addition to Brock Road.
6. Clerk of Court Kirk Reams introduced the surplus properties item and stated that two of the three properties had people living in them even though the properties had been escheated to the County Commission (and were now listed in the county's name). He explained that the Thompson gas station property was also in the county's name but was

not occupied. Clerk of Court Reams provided a brief overview of the tax deed process. Ms. Kelly Fillyaw stated that the resident of the North Forest property was a disabled Vietnam veteran that fell behind on taxes but now had resources to pay. Attorney Bird stated the property would have to be sold, unless the county entered into a lease with option to purchase agreement. **On motion by Commissioner Surles, seconded by Commissioner Walker and unanimously carried, the Board voted to move forward with an appraisal of all three properties prior to offering the occupants an opportunity to purchase.**

7. County Auditor Chris Johnson, with Carr, Riggs & Ingram, presented the 2016/2017 Financial Audit to the Board. He provided an overview of the Management Discussion and Analysis (MD&A) and stated that the County as a whole is healthy. He noted that fund balances went down in this audited year, likely due to road paving and other activities. He recommended enlisting a professional for accounting oversight. Clerk of Court Kirk Reams stated most of the findings were the result of a perfect storm of CRI no longer being allowed to provide pre-audit services to the Clerk and also him not being present to help organize the audit. Clerk Reams concurred that an outside professional to assist with the pre-audit was a good idea and that he had already engaged Mr. John Hamilton for this task. Chair Barfield asked if utilizing Mr. Hamilton would reduce overall audit expenditures, to which Mr. Reams responded that would likely be the case. Chair Barfield inquired about the \$70,000 transferred to the Clerk from the Board, to which Clerk Reams stated it was still within the budgeted amount, but was the result of a shortfall of projected fee income. Chair Barfield stated she still had some issues with the accounting software and would like to see the information presented a different way on the reports and warrant registers. Clerk of Court Reams discussed the future contract with CRI and stated it was governed by Florida statute with input from each Constitutional Officer and a representative from the County Commission. Citizen Phil Calandra stated several issues related to the audit and accounting system. Commissioner Fulford stated his understanding that many of the findings were related to information flow.
8. Chair Barfield introduced the SHIP Satisfaction of Lien for Gillyard in the amount \$30,000. **On motion by Commissioner Walker, seconded by Commissioner Surles and unanimously carried, the Board approved the satisfaction of lien.**
9. County Attorney Buck Bird introduced the Yeager property item. He stated that Mr. Yeager owed back taxes of approximately \$16,000 and was responsible for an approximate \$107,000 SHIP loan held by the County SHIP program. Attorney Bird stated the Board had the option of accepting a deed in lieu of foreclosure from Mr. Yeager and contributing some money towards finishing the construction of the home before placing it on the market. He stated that if the county proceeded in this manner, they purchaser of the home would have to be qualified under the SHIP program. **Commissioner Hall made a motion to proceed with the tax deed sale as advertised, to which Commissioner Walker seconded for discussion.** Chair Barfield expressed displeasure with allowing Mr. Yeager to walk away “scot-free” after making money on the County. Citizen SW Ellis, who served on the Citizens Advisory Board, stated this house was built in 2007 and was not able to sell after the bust in 2013. **The motion failed 1 to 4 (Barfield in favor).** **On motion by Commissioner Surles, seconded by Commissioner Fulford and carried 3-2 (Barfield and Hall opposed), the Board approved moving forward with a deed in lieu of foreclosure.**

10. Commissioner Walker asked why he was still receiving public records requests from Foley, to which County Coordinator Barwick stated the request had already been filled. Attorney Scott Shirley stated the voluntary dismissal for that lawsuit had been filed, but that it might come back if the Board moves forward with the bike trail in the future.
11. **Chair Barfield provided an update on the RESTORE ACT. She also stated that she had been in contact with FDOT regarding the gullies in front of CVS and north 19.**
12. **Chair Barfield stated that the Dirty Pecan event was scheduled for next weekend.**
13. **Chair Barfield introduced the topic of County Coordinator Parrish Barwick's salary increase. Commissioner Hall recommended an annual review be performed by each Commissioner in the future. By consensus, the Board approved a \$2.00/hour increase for Mr. Barwick.**
14. On motion by Commissioner Fulford, seconded by Commissioner Walker and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned.

**Board of County Commissioners
Jefferson County, Florida**

Betsy Barfield, Chair

ATTEST:

Kirk Reams, Clerk of Court