

JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
Regular Session
Courthouse Annex
March 7, 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. Commissioner Hall led the prayer and pledge of allegiance.
2. Citizen Phil Calandra gave a presentation on Economic Development related to Opportunity Zones.
3. Citizen John Nelson announced that the VFW Banquet would be held on April 6, 2019.
4. Shane Wellendorf, with Tall Timbers, asked the Board for a letter of support for the state purchase of a conservation easement on land owned by the GEM Land Company. Commissioner Surles inquired as to whether county access at Hopkins Landing could be enhanced, to which Commissioner Walker concurred that county access to Hopkins Landing needs to remain in effect. Clerk of Court Kirk Reams reminded the Board that any enhancements done through grants could not be accomplished unless the county owned or had a lease to the property. Further exploration on this matter was requested before the County would write the letter of support.
5. Citizen Floyd Faglie informed the Board about a late night noisy event outside of his neighborhood. He stated that, at the least, the temporary use permitting process should be reviewed. Chair Barfield stated that Planning Official Shannon Metty and the Planning Commission would be meeting soon to address the issue.
6. **On motion Commissioner Surles, seconded by Commissioner Walker and unanimously carried, the Board approved the Consent Agenda consisting of: Approval of Agenda, General Fund/Transportation Vouchers, BOCC Minutes for 2/21/2019 Regular Session and the "A" Building Construction Services Agreement.**
7. Jay Mosley with Government Services Group addressed the Board regarding the Yeager SHIP housing project. He stated that Yeager did not finish the home and had not paid taxes or the loan back. He also stated that this would never had been approved if he were overseeing the SHIP program at the time. He stated that if the County was able to sell the home, the money would go into the SHIP account and that the house had to be sold to an income-eligible applicant. Mr. Mosley also informed the Board that the SHIP program will have to be made whole, up to the \$107,000 loan that was made. Chair Barfield stated her desire to foreclose on the property and allow the foreclosure to follow Mr. Yeager. Commissioner Fulford asked if there was any way to go after Mr. Yeager in his personal capacity, to which Attorney Bird stated there was not. Citizen CP Miller stated his disappointment with this issue and that he felt he should be entitled to purchase the property in a tax deed sale. He also stated concern that Attorney Bird handled the paperwork for Yeager and also represented the County. Attorney Bird stated he would be handling the deed in lieu of foreclosure paperwork.

8. **On motion by Commissioner Walker, seconded by Commissioner Surles and unanimously carried, the Board gave County Coordinator Parrish Barwick signature authority for housing-related documents.**
9. Attorney Gwen Atkins with Coppins Monroe addressed the Board regarding the attorney fee request for reimbursement for Clerk of Court Kirk Reams. Ms. Atkins informed the Board that it was her legal opinion that Mr. Reams was entitled for reimbursement of his legal fees by the County Commission. Chair Barfield expressed her desire to have this claim sent to the insurance carrier. Citizen Phil Calandra stated that the taxpayers were the victims in this situation. Citizen Richard Connell stated that Clerk Reams had saved the county over \$1 million dollars since being back in office. Attorney David Collins urged the Board to fulfill its obligation under the law and have the courage to save taxpayers further dollars. **Commissioner Surles made a motion to pay the reimbursement amount and seek reimbursement from the insurance carrier afterward. The motion died for lack of a second. On motion by Commissioner Walker, seconded by Commissioner Hall and carried 3 to 2 (Barfield, Surles opposed), the Board agreed to send the claim to the insurance carrier.**
10. County Coordinator Parrish Barwick introduced the Big Bend Continuum of Care request. At this time, no Board member was available to serve.
11. Clerk of Court Kirk Reams stated that the SCRAP, SCOP and CIGP applications have been submitted and that construction progress was being made at the Wacissa River.
12. County Attorney Scott Shirley stated he would be bringing back the Marcia Elder vs. Jefferson County settlement materials to a future Board meeting.
13. Commissioner Walker stated his desire to pursue the Boland property to the east of the Wacissa River head. Chair Barfield recommended this item be placed on a future agenda in order to discuss adding this to the RESTORE ACT list.
14. Commissioner Hall spoke about his NACO meeting in Washington, D.C. and spoke of his hopes for a broadband initiative similar to one he heard discussed while there.
15. Chair Barfield gave an update on the Dirty Pecan event and stated that the DSL project for pot one of the RESTORE ACT money had been approved.

On motion by Commissioner Surles, 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