

JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
Regular Session
Courthouse Annex
April 18, 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 Order. Commissioner Fulford led the invocation and pledge of allegiance.
2. Kimberly Albritton, with the Jefferson County Health Department, addressed the Board regarding her progress towards her Master's Degree. She informed the Board that she had two classes to complete before receiving her Master's Degree in Business Administration and that she anticipates having the classes finished by October of this year.
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; BOCC Minutes for 3/7/2019, 3/21/2019 and 4/4/2019 Board meetings; and Holly Bushes on US Highway 90 to be Removed by FDOT.**
4. County Coordinator Parrish Barwick introduced the Census Committee Appointment item and stated that someone known throughout the community was needed to go into neighborhoods and get the word out about the census in order to get the best count. He stated he would be bringing a recommendation to the next meeting. Citizen Paul Henry stated he did not mind being counted but did not like all of the other questions.
5. Commissioner Hall introduced the gun range request for a site at the landfill on Tyson Road. Citizen Keith Cook spoke in favor of a gun range and stated it had been discussed in the past. Commissioner Hall expressed his support of this idea. Citizens Lynn Stafford, Lisa Hayes, Paul Henry and Bill Brown spoke in favor of a gun range. Citizen Richard Connell offered the services of GFAST to build berms. Attorney Scott Shirley recommended the County follow the permitting requirements as closely as possible, including notifying neighbors and developing a minor site plan. Sheriff Mac McNeill stated he was fully supporting of the gun range and that it would benefit the community. Commissioner Fulford asked if the Tyson Road site was viable, to which Attorney Shirley stated it would not be for a commercial range as it would require over 40 acres and perimeter fencing, but that for a pistol only range or 100 yard rifle range it could work. Clerk of Court Kirk Reams stated any exceptions made would set a precedent if another citizen wanted to open a gun range. **Commissioner Hall made a motion to move forward with the range, to which Commissioner Walker seconded for further discussion.** Citizen Gordon Dean noted his extensive work at the specific site and stated the safest direction to shoot at the Tyson Road site would be to the west. He also volunteered his time as a professional engineer toward the cause. County Coordinator Parrish Barwick stated he would take direction from the Board but his opinion was to focus on a short range. **Commissioner Hall amended his second to include following proper protocol/paperwork, notifying neighbors and limiting it to a 25-yard pistol range and 100-yard rifle range, to which Walker amended his second. The motion carried unanimously.**

6. Clerk of Court Kirk Reams introduced the resolution supporting the historic Monticello High School grant application. Chair Barfield stated that over \$150,000 had been approved for plans from EMI and asked if this money would come from Fines & Forfeitures, to which Clerk Reams responded in the affirmative. Clerk Reams noted that the grant will begin in July 2020 but will not incur any bills until late 2020 and that funds should be adequately built up by that point in time. **On motion by Commissioner Walker, seconded by Commissioner Surles and unanimously carried, the Board approved the resolution of support.**
7. Clerk of Court Kirk Reams introduced the resolution of support for the Police Athletic League grant application. He stated that—if awarded—the grant would go towards renovating the Jefferson County High School gym. He stated there was no financial obligation from the Board and it was just a resolution of support. **On motion by Commissioner Hall, seconded by Commissioner Walker and unanimously carried, the Board approved the resolution of support.**
8. Clerk of Court Kirk Reams stated he and his staff would have the materials requested by the external auditors ready to give to Mr. John Hamilton by the end of next week. He also stated he would like the Board to place support resolutions for historic preservation of the “A” Building and the old high school gym currently being leased by the Police Athletic League.
9. As a side note, Clerk of Court Kirk Reams stated he would emailing county departments and Constitutional Offices in the near future to request his office be kept in the loop on all grants for audit purposes.
10. County Coordinator Parrish Barwick introduced the travel policy discussion and stated that currently \$7,000 was budgeted and over \$5,000 had already been spent. Mr. Barwick stated his proposal would be that any out of state travel come before the Board or be placed on the agenda. Chair Barfield stated that the Board would budget for all five Commissioners to attend the Florida state conference (Florida Association of Counties) but that anyone desiring to go to the National Association of Counties or other conferences needed the permission of the Board. **On motion by Commissioner Surles, seconded by Commissioner Walker and carried 4 to 1 (Hall opposed), the Board approved the new travel policy for County Commissioners.**
11. Citizen Paul Henry commended County Coordinator Barwick and Clerk of Court Kirk Reams for the paving performed on Blue Lake Road as a result of the road bond money.
12. Commissioner Walker complimented Sherry Dean for her efforts on the rodeo fundraiser in support of the Senior Center.
13. Clerk of Court Kirk Reams informed the Board that his office had compiled all of the requested information from the auditors for the Clerk’s Office and Board of County Commission. He stated the information had been turned over to John Hamilton for review.
14. County Coordinator Barwick gave an update on Road Department activities and stated he needed the Board’s signature approval to sign new leases for switching out dump trucks. The consensus of the Board was for Mr. Barwick to proceed with the new leases.
15. Attorney Scott Shirley gave an update on the liability coverage response from the insurance carrier regarding legal fees for Clerk of Court Kirk Reams. He stated that the claim was denied by the carrier as it arises out of an allegation of criminality, which is an express

exclusion in the policy. Attorney Shirley recommended that Paul Dawson (Brown & Brown) attend a future meeting to clear up any misconceptions. Mr. Shirley stated that Attorney David Marsey is now defending the Board and recommended an executive session at the second meeting in May to discuss litigation strategy.

16. Commissioner Walker gave an update on the Wacissa River park.
17. Commissioner Hall gave an update on the recreation board and presented minutes from their most recent meeting.
18. Commissioner Fulford gave an economic development update and stated that Enterprise Florida is requesting submissions and that proposals had been made for several locations in Jefferson County. He also noted that Dewberry did conceptual drawings for site developments and that he would like to engage developers/realtors with this information.
19. Chair Barfield stated that she was going to mention the turning lane in Waukeelah at the next CRTPA meeting and also that she spoke with FDOT about the widening of Ashville Highway.
20. Chair Barfield stated an appointee was needed for the general election canvassing board and that it would be placed on a future agenda.
21. 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