

JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
Regular Session
Courthouse Annex
April 4, 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. Surlles 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 Walker led the prayer and pledge of allegiance.
2. Citizen Josh Goodwin voiced concerns over a utility project by Gulf Power in the southern area of the County. County Attorney Scott Shirley stated he would look into this matter and bring back to the Board at a future meeting for discussion.
3. **On motion Commissioner Surlles, seconded by Commissioner Walker and unanimously carried, the Board approved the Consent Agenda consisting of: Approval of Agenda, General Fund/Transportation Vouchers, BOCC Letter of Agreement for Housing Participation and Planning Commission Appointee for District 2 Derrick Jennings.**
4. Chair Barfield introduced the Gulf Consortium Executive Committee Alternate request. She stated that the Board would need to approve her request to be an alternate on the Executive Committee. **On motion by Commissioner Walker, seconded by Commissioner Hall and unanimously carried, the request was approved.**
5. County Engineer Josh Baxley with Dewberry introduced the Suwannee River Water Management District grant submittal for Gum Swamp Road. **On motion by Commissioner Surlles, seconded by Commissioner Fulford and unanimously carried, the grant submittal was approved.**
6. Sheriff Mac McNeill introduced the Victrims Advocacy position item and requested that the County match \$10,000 for this position. Clerk of Court Kirk Reams stated that in the future this amount should be added to the Sheriff's Department budget where it can be matched from funds within their department. **On motion by Commissioner Hall, seconded by Commissioner Surlles and unanimously carried, the request was approved.**
7. Citizen Franklin Brooks voiced concern over the condition of Ashville Highway. Clerk of Court Kirk Reams and County Coordinator Parrish Barwick explained that multiple avenues of funding have been explored to help solve the issues on Ashville Highway and that the County may explore shoulder paving in the future with the County performing a good portion of the work.
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. County Coordinator Parrish Barwick gave an update on the activities currently being performed by the Road Department. He also informed the Board that a loan fee of \$282.50 was charged for the administration of the ambulance loan. Mr. Barwick also stated the travel

budget for County Commissioners was a tight budget item. Chair Barfield recommended that Chair Barwick come up with a travel policy to be placed on a future agenda.

10. Planning Attorney Scott Shirley introduced a draft of the ordinance imposing a temporary use noise regulation. He stated that the ordinance called for no amplified noise between the hours of 11 pm and 7 am. **On motion by Commissioner Surles, seconded by Commissioner Fulford and unanimously carried, special public hearings were set for April 23 and April 30 to discuss this item.**
11. County Attorney Scott Shirley informed the Board that the County had been served a lawsuit by Clerk of Court Kirk Reams and his attorney David Collins regarding the county's obligation to reimburse Mr. Reams for legal fees. He informed the Boards that a response was due by April 24th and that no coverage determination had been made by the insurance carrier at this time. He further said that if coverage was available, counsel would be appointed by the insurance carrier and if coverage was not available, the Board would need to hold a special meeting regarding the retaining of counsel for this matter. Commissioner Surles stated he had spoken with Paul Dawson (Brown and Brown) and that he would like to see Mr. Dawson attend a future meeting to clear up some possible misinterpretations of his conversations with various Commissioners. Commissioner Surles stated he would like to keep this issue from dragging along and continuously dragging Mr. Reams through the mud by moving forward. Attorney Shirley reiterated that the insurance carrier is not going to pay for the legal fees; rather, they may provide defense costs for the Board in this matter. He also stated that the Board could choose to have an executive session with the attorney that had previously provided the Board with a legal opinion. Citizen Lynn McGrady asked the Board who had hired Ms. Gwen Atkins, who previously provided the Board with a legal opinion to which Chair Barfield responded the County. Ms. McGrady stated the Board had a legal obligation per Attorney Atkins to pay the legal feels and asked why this issue was still being discussed. Chair Barfield responded that it was Ms. Atkins' opinion.
12. Commissioner Hall inquired about the status of the USDA grants for Emergency Management, to which County Coordinator Barwick stated they were being applied for.
13. Chair Barfield stated that County Coordinator Barwick and Emergency Management Director Paula Carroll had filed for reimbursement of expenses related to Hurricane Irma. Chair Barfield also provided an update on the RESTORE ACT.
14. 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