

JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Regular Session

January 7, 2021

6:00 P.M.

The Board met this date in regular session. Present were Chairman Stephen Walker, Commissioners Betsy Barfield, Eugene Hall, JT Surles and Chris Tuten. Also present were County Attorneys Buck Bird and Scott Shirley and Clerk of Court Kirk Reams.

1. Chairman Walker called the meeting order at 6:22 pm due to a workshop running late. Chairman Walker then led the invocation and pledge of allegiance.
2. Tommy Hardee, with Pops Sanitation, offered voluntary curbside pickup for county residents and expressed interest in acquiring land at the Industrial Park as well as having a franchise agreement with the County. He stated he would like his attorney to work with the county's attorney on an agreement. Chair Walker requested that counsel speak with Mr. Hardee's attorney when convenient.
3. Commissioner Surles informed the Board that he had spoken with Kim Albritton at the Health Department and the County is currently administering 400-500 vaccinations per day. He also clarified that, due to the way the mandate is written out of county residents cannot be turned away if they go to our health department for the vaccine.
4. **On motion by Commissioner Surles, seconded by Commissioner Barfield and unanimously carried, the consent agenda—consisting of the approval of the agenda, General Fund/Transportation Vouchers, BOCC Regular Session Minutes for 12/3/2020 and 12/17/2020—was approved.**
5. Emergency Management Director Paula Carroll informed the Board that per the PETS Act, the County is required to have one federal emergency pet shelter, to be located at Jefferson Somerset. She provided an overview of the plan to the Board and noted that it was a requirement in order for the County to receive any federal funding for emergency management (FEMA) moving forward. **On motion by Commissioner Surles, seconded by Commissioner Barfield and unanimously carried, the Board approved the plan.**
6. Clerk of Court Kirk Reams introduced the Legislative Priorities item and stated that historically the county has put in for an agricultural center. After discussion, the Board determined that in addition to maintaining programs such as amendment 1 & 4 as well as the FDOT programs, its priorities would be (in order) \$1.2 million to fund a new communications system for law enforcement/emergency personnel and \$900k to assist with broadband initiatives. **On motion by Commissioner Hall, seconded by Commissioner Surles and unanimously carried, the Board approved the priorities as listed above.**
7. Clerk of Court Kirk Reams stated it was a requirement to open the proposals for the Wacissa River consultant at the meeting. The Board received proposals from the following: Keith Engineering, Kimley Horne, Lampl/Herbert and SMS Environmental. Planning Official Shannon Metty stated a committee was needed to review the four applicants and then bring a recommendation back to the Board. It was the consensus of the Board to use the Wacissa River committee already in place and utilize Josh Adams with Apalachee Regional Planning Council to help guide/score the applicants and make sure they meet all of the requirements.

8. Citizen Charlie Cook addressed the Board and praised Road Department supervisor Tom Kisamore for his assistance with an issue for a new homeowner.
9. Clerk of Court Kirk Reams informed the Board that W-2s for county employees would be ready by the next payroll (1/15/2021). He also requested he be appointed to help with the Economic Development Committee.
10. Chairman Walker stated that County Coordinator Parrish Barwick would be out due to health reasons and recommended the Board have one designee/point of contact in his absence. It was the consensus of the Board for Shannon Metty to be the designee in Mr. Barwick's absence.
11. County Attorney Scott Shirley provided a brief update on the RESTORE Act funding for broadband.
12. Commissioner Tuten recommended meeting with the Recreation Park committee to discuss the items brought forward today at the workshop.
13. Commissioner Hall informed the Board that Charles Blume, former executive director of the ARPC, had passed away and suggested a resolution or proclamation in his honor for all of his help with both Jefferson County and the City of Monticello.
14. Commissioner Hall requested a building permits report be provided at the next meeting if possible.
15. Chairman Walker stated he would like to see penalties for vandals at the Recreation Park. He stated he would like suspensions/banishment from the park in addition to any monetary penalty. Sheriff McNeill and Attorney Scott Shirley both stated there are already mechanisms in place to pursue charges and that any issues would be taken to the State Attorney's Office to be handled. The Board also briefly discussed additional signage as a deterrent for county parks (Wacissa River, Lamont and Mamie Scott) and that the signs should reference both cameras in use and also the penalties for vandalism.
16. **On motion by Commissioner Barfield, seconded by Commissioner Surles and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned.**

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

Stephen Walker, Chairman

ATTEST:

Kirk Reams, Clerk of Court