

# JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

## Regular Session

August 1, 2024

9:00 A.M.

The Board met on this date in Regular Session. Commissioners Chris Tuten, Ben White, Austin Hosford, and Gene Hall were present. Clerk Jason Welty, County Manager Shannon Metty, County Attorney Heather Encinosa, and County Budget Officer Gus Rojas were also present.

### 1. 9AM Call to Order, Invocation, Pledge of Allegiance

- a. **Chairman Surles was absent; Commissioner Hosford adopted the role of Chairman for this meeting.**

### 2. Public Announcements, Presentations, & Awards

#### a. Broadband Update-Julius Hackett

- i. Mr. Julius Hackett – COOP’s fiber project is winding down – actively connecting members on the southern side of the county. Fiber all the way to the home – affordable product, 200MB per second to 2 gigabytes per second. \$49 per month to \$99 per month, option to include telephone service. Actively connecting Duke Energy customers within 1200 feet of the mainline. Suggest to the commission what areas are priorities for the commission. One mile of fiber costs about \$70,000. We are going to invest ARPA funds to help pay for expansion.
- ii. Don Howard – Indian Hills Rd. – High-speed internet service is a necessity, not a luxury anymore. Request the commission to invest in high-speed internet for the rest of the county.
- iii. Mr. Hackett – It would cost \$15-20 million to do the rest of the county. There are grant funds, the co-op will be active in those applications.
- iv. Natalie Bender – would like to get high-speed fiber for the library.

### 3. Citizen’s Request & Input on Non-Agenda Items

### 4. Consent Agenda

- a. **Commissioner Tuten motioned to approve the Consent Agenda, Commissioner White seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.**

### 5. General Business

#### a. Animal Control Ordinance Draft Discussion

- i. Provides more consistency regarding impoundment
  1. Ill or injured animals to be treated humanely
  2. Regulations for rabies carriers
  3. Leash law-abandonment law \$500 fine
  4. Public nuisances prohibited
  5. Preventing fighting or baiting with hunting exceptions
- ii. Bobby Piget-new employee at Animal Control
- iii. Commissioner Hosford-clarification to definition of public nuisance

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1. Clarification to feral animal enforcement
    - iv. County Manager Metty-we must catch them in the act to enforce it.
    - v. Commissioner Tuten-remove barking and leash law
    - vi. Commissioner Hosford-unleashed animals are becoming more of an issue. This ordinance puts accountability on the dog owners.
    - vii. County Attorney Encinosa-hunting dogs exempt from 'running at large' language.
    - viii. Rachel Herman-cat mauled by six dogs. She has been tasked with the responsibility of caring for stray dogs. Euthanasia occurring because of overcrowding.
    - ix. Evan Martin-definition of animal cruelty in Florida Statute.
      1. Must provide adequate shelter and sustain life
      2. Feral animals pose risk to public safety
    - x. Natalie Bender-two rabies alerts recently
    - xi. Annie Anderson-runs the Humane Society
    - xii. Kay Kurtis-there should not be more than one warning. Offer a \$15 spay and neuter. Enact consequences for not paying fines.
    - xiii. Remaining citizens who spoke at the podium include Michelle Dutch, Katherine Ceci, Gus Rojas, and Nikki Salls (in order).
    - xiv. **The General Counsel will take the feedback from the Commission and public testimony and provide an update to the ordinance at a future Commission Meeting.**
  - b. **Building Department Update**
    - i. James Kauffman-update on the number of permits for mobile homes, single-family homes, and accessory buildings.
  - c. **Career Source MOU w/ Library**
    - i. **Commissioner Tuten motioned to approve Career Source MOU to have space within the library, Commissioner Hall seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.**
  - d. **EMI Agreement**
    - i. **Commissioner Tuten motioned to approve the EMI Agreement, Commissioner White seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.**
6. **Clerk of Court**
    - a. Property Fraud Alert presented by Lila Eaton, Deputy Clerk
    - b. Payroll incident
  7. **County Engineer**
  8. **County Attorney**

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**9. County Manager**

- a. Priority List of Grant Pursuit—everyone has grants they want; the manager’s office requires a priority list from the Commission.
- b. Beacons on Old Lloyd Road
- c. Website updates-more user-friendly, launching soon

**10. County Commissioners**

- a. Commissioner Hall thanked the Board for allowing him to attend the NACO conference. Questions on the Wacissa River Park.
- b. Hosford- court reporter transcript issue
- c. Lloyd Depot- fix this project- historic site in Jefferson County is a problem
  - i. Manager will investigate this issue.

**11. Adjourn 10:45**