

JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
Regular Session
October 3, 2024
9:00 A.M.

The Board met on this date in Regular Session. Chairman JT Surlles, Commissioners Chris Tuten, Ben White, and Austin Hosford were present. Commissioner Gene Hall was present via Zoom. Clerk Jason Welty, County Manager Shannon Metty, HR Director Renee Long, County Attorney Heather Encinosa, and Assistant County Attorney Evan Rosenthal were also present.

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

- a. **Commissioner Hosford motioned to allow Commissioner Hall to participate via Zoom, Commissioner White seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.**
- b. Opioid Implementation Plan – Unanimous to add to consent agenda

2. Public Announcements, Presentations & Awards

- a. Phil Calandra
 - i. Provided a handout to the commission and referenced a Letter to the Editor in the Monticello News on September 25, 2024.
 - ii. During Covid, the mask mandate was considered government overreach, but somehow, Amendment 4, which places a virtual total ban on abortions, is not government overreach. The six-week ban is an overreach into individual personal decisions and the access to complete healthcare.
 - iii. He is a proponent of Amendment 4. He spoke against the resolution adopted by the board on September 12, 2024, which was a political position misrepresenting several citizens. There was a discrepancy between the notice in the paper that the meeting was at 5:30 PM and the start time of the meeting at 6 PM. He asks that the commission rescind the Vote No on Amendment 4. He also asks that the Board resists the temptation to make the same mistake with any other Amendment.
- b. Deborah Pauley
 - i. Agreed with Mr. Colandra. She has three generations of young ladies that deserve to have access to appropriate healthcare. This is a much bigger issue than just abortions; it includes birth control and the health of women. The right to life also includes the lives of women and girls.
- c. Bill Synder
 - i. Spoke against Amendment 4 since it has no defined limits on late-term abortion, viability, or patients' health, which creates a massive loophole. This Amendment would allow any so called "healthcare provider" to make determinations. It also fails to mention that parental consent laws would be repealed in the state of Florida, making abortion the only medical procedure a minor could receive without parental consent. It will force Florida taxpayers to pay for abortions.
 - ii. He asked the commission to adopt a resolution against Amendment 3—the default position on any constitutional amendment should be no. He

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provided arguments for the commission to consider. Andrew Kang read the recommended resolution.

- d. Phil Calandra
 - i. Spoke against the Commission's resolution against Amendment 3. If you have a personal opinion, that is fine, but as elected officials, I request that you do not endorse this amendment or any other amendment that is on the ballot.

3. Citizens' Request & Input on Non-Agenda Items

- a. Evan Rosenthal
 - i. Asks the sheriff to briefly explain the opioid settlement; it appears to be an authorization to purchase defibrillators. He did not have a chance to review it prior to the meeting.
- b. Shannon Metty
 - i. This is not approval of the purchase; this is an approval of the plan.

4. Consent Agenda

- a. **Commissioner White motioned to approve the Consent Agenda with those amended items on it, Commissioner Hosford seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.**

5. General Business

6. Clerk of Court

- a. The Clerk's Office does payment plans for traffic tickets. We have statutory guidelines where we are supposed to suspend your license if you do not pay within the allotted timeframe. Due to hurricane Helene, the Clerk's Office will not suspend any licenses for the month of October. If you are already on a payment plan and you miss a payment, we will give a 30-day grace period. It is very important to recognize that people are struggling.

7. County Engineer

8. County Attorney

- a. License suspension

9. County Manager

- a. Started working on Waukeelah Highway. Try to get to pick up debris as quickly as possible.
- b. Debris – The manager will manage the debris pickup – it comes with risk; if anything goes wrong, it might end up costing the county to pay it back. Counsel Evan Rosenthal provided additional information relating to FDOT. It has assumed complete responsibility for debris hauling and will use the county's existing contractors. By doing so, FDOT takes over all financial responsibility for hauling and monitoring. The County would be on the hook for the local cost-share amount, which is generally 12.5% from any storm. The County would also be responsible for fronting any costs and then seeking reimbursement from FEMA.

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- c. Power – about 25% of tri-county is still out. Duke is back with 25%
- d. Sheriff – this is one of the smoothest processes. There were 20 homes destroyed and 80 damaged – northeast and southeast and badly destroyed. Three comfort stations – Aucilla Shores and Lamont. We still have water and MREs. By Friday, 10/4/24, we should be back to normal.

10. County Commissioners

- a. Commissioner White
 - i. The playgrounds in the recreation park in Lamont are falling apart, and we need to redo them. If we keep the park, we must keep it safe.
- b. Chairman Surles
 - i. Conflict on the Election Board discussion.
- c. New Commissioners and Chair will be selected at the second meeting in November.

11. Adjourn

- a. **Commissioner Hosford motioned to adjourn, Commissioner Tuten seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.**