

# JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

## Regular Session Agenda Thursday, January 23rd, 2025 6 PM

The Board met on this date in Regular Session. Chairman Austin Hosford, Commissioners Ben White, JT Surles, Jessica Gramling, and Gene Hall were present. Clerk Trey Hightower, County Manager Shannon Metty, HR Director Renee Long, County Attorney Heather Encinosa, Assistant County Attorney Evan Rosenthal, and County Budget Officer Gus Rojas were also present.

The meeting on January 23, 2025, discussed several key points. A letter of support was requested by the Jefferson County Water and Soil Board to prevent consolidation and potential elimination. The board approved the appointment of Tara Reynolds for affordable housing and Carolyn Hoffner and Stewart Cooksey for the Planning Commission. An investment policy was proposed by the Clerk of Court and unanimously passed by the board. A \$110,000 budget request for law enforcement equipment was approved. The Boston Highway Phase 1 and 2 widening project was approved with an 18-inch shoulder. The landfill maintenance contract will be reevaluated in April to potentially save \$55,000.

- **6PM Call to Order**
- **Approval of the Agenda**
  - Chairman Hosford leads a prayer for efficiency and recovery from the storm.
  - **Commissioner Hall motions to approve the agenda, seconded by Commissioner Gramling and unanimously passed by the board.**
- **Public Announcements, Presentations, and Awards**
  - **Soil and Water Board Presentation**
    - Chris Tuten provides background on the Water and Soil Board in Jefferson County.
    - The board helps producers connect with NRCS, FSA, and conservation technicians for cost-share events and storm recovery.
    - Chris Tuten requests a letter of support from the board to keep the Water and Soil Board intact.
    - **Commissioner Surles motions to draft a letter of support, seconded by Commissioner White and unanimously passed by the board.**
    - Chairman Hosford calls for any other public announcements, presentations, or awards, but none are made.
- **Citizens' Requests and Input on Non-Agenda Items**
- **Consent Agenda**
- **Motion to approve the Consent Agenda is made by Commissioner Gramling and seconded by Commissioner White. It is unanimously passed by the board.**
- **General Business**
  - **TA Truck Stop**
    - County Attorney Heather Encinosa recommends continuing the hearing on the TA truck stop to February 20, 2025, at 6 PM in the courthouse annex.
    - **Commissioner White motions to continue the hearing in the courthouse annex, seconded by Commissioner Gramling. The motion is not voted on.**

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- **Commissioner White motions to move Item A to February 20, 2025, at 6 PM at 1 Courthouse Circle, seconded by Commissioner Hall and unanimously passed by the board.**
- **Planning Commission and Affordable Housing Appointments**
  - County Manager Shannon Metty recommends Miss Tara Reynolds for the affordable housing appointment.
  - **Commissioner Surles motions to approve Miss Reynolds' appointment, seconded by Commissioner Gramling and unanimously passed by the board.**
  - County Manager Shannon Metty announces the appointment of Miss Carolyn Hoffner for District 1 and Mr. Stewart Cooksey for District 5 on the Planning Commission.
  - **Commissioner White motions to approve the Planning Commission appointments, seconded by Commissioner Surles and unanimously passed by the board.**
- **Investment Policy**
  - Clerk of Court Trey Hightower presents a policy resolution to adopt an investment policy for the county.
  - **Commissioner Surles motions to approve the investment policy, seconded by Commissioner Hall and unanimously passed by the Board.**
- **Sherrif Budget Request**
  - Sheriff requests \$110,000 from the special law enforcement trust fund for a new canine, a canine vehicle, and license plate readers.
  - **Commissioner Surles motions to approve the budget request, seconded by Commissioner White and unanimously passed by the board.**
- **Clerk of Court**
- **County Engineer**
  - County Engineer discusses the design and cost estimate for Boston Highway Phase One and Two.
  - The proposed design includes 18 inches of widening on the road, aiming for 12-foot travel lanes.
  - Chairman Hosford and Commissioner Surles express support for the proposed design.
  - County Engineer mentions two pay requests for Waukeelah projects to be presented at the next meeting.
- **County Attorney**
- **County Manager**
  - Shannon Metty reminds the board of the upcoming comprehensive plan hearing on February 6th.
  - Metty also updates the board on the debris pickup project, noting that it is nearly complete.
  - The IT bid process and the upcoming award for the network build-out.

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- **County Commissioners**
  - Commissioner Hall inquired about county laptops.
    - County Manager Metty responds that she is unsure if the network or the internet will come first. Mr. Rojas has put out an IT bid, so we will hopefully have an award for you within the next month. We can finish building the network once that is done.
  - Commissioner Surles thanks county staff and the sheriff's office for their response to the recent weather emergency.
  - Chairman Hosford inquires about the landfill contract and potential cost savings on mowing.
  - Shannon Metty explains that an update on the landfill's maintenance requirements will be available in April.
- **Adjourn**
  - **Commissioner Surles motions to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner White and unanimously passed, ending the meeting.**