

JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Regular Session Agenda Thursday, December 5th, 2024 9 AM

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

The meeting on December 5, 2024, discussed several key points. After approving the agenda, several items were discussed and approved, including a change order, board appointments, a Local Housing Assistance Program amendment, and a School Board MOU for emergency coordination. The board also approved updates to the Local Mitigation Strategy bylaws, a resolution for animal control citation enforcement, and a supplemental budget for a \$5.2 million DEM grant. The County Manager provided updates on road projects, the dog kennel, and holiday scheduling, while commissioners addressed issues such as the Aucilla Shores road repair and the redevelopment of the old gym. The meeting concluded with a motion to adjourn.

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

2. Public Announcements

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

- Mr. Rue
 - i. Requesting that CDBG Grant be reinvestigated, it was a 1.6-million-dollar grant. County would get the money. We also have poor internet which is affecting our hotel business; our customers need high-speed internet to work.

4. Consent Agenda

- County Manager explains that one item did not make it onto the agenda. It was a change order for Waukeenah Highway, and she apologizes for late notice.
- **Commissioner Surlles motions to approve the change order, seconded by Commissioner Gramling and unanimously passed by the board.**
- Clerk Hightower states the changes to the vouchers. The vouchers were put in late - Jeffrey Prevate \$140; Christopher Williams \$340; Government Services Group \$2,967 related to the SHIP Grant Program; GCL Monticello credit memo \$29.99; Monticello Milling credit memo \$152.
- **Commissioner Surlles motions to approve the Clerk's voucher changes, seconded by Commissioner Gramling and unanimously passed by the board.**

5. General Business

a. Metty- Meeting schedule for next year

- **Commissioner Surlles motions to approve the meeting schedule for next year, seconded by Commissioner Gramling and unanimously passed by the board.**

b. Board Appointments

- Apalachee Regional Planning Council – Commissioner Gramling

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- Aucilla Landfill Governing Board – Commissioner Surles alternate, Commissioner Gramling main
 - Chamber of Commerce Designee – Commissioner Hosford
 - Traffic Safety Team – Commissioner Hosford
 - Gulf Consortium – Commissioner Gramling, Shannon Metty alternate
 - Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board – Commissioner Surles
 - North Florida Economic Development – Commissioner Hall
 - North Florida Workforce Consortium – Commissioner Gramling
 - NRCS USDA Local Working Group – Commissioner White
 - Small County Coalition – Commissioner White, Commissioner Hall
 - Affordable Housing Advisory Committee (Affordable Housing Provider) – Tabled until next meeting
 - Planning Commission – Tabled until January
 - Tourist Development Counsel – Commissioner Hosford, Rose Naff, James Spinnenweber.
 - **Commissioner Hall motions to approve the board appointments, seconded by Commissioner Surles and unanimously approved by the board.**
- c. **LHAP Update**
- Amendment in response to some of the difficulties that were experienced within the program. Shifting potential funding around. Owner-occupied rehabilitations have come to the county with life estate, and the applicants themselves do not actually own the property which makes it difficult to record a mortgage.
 - **Commissioner Surles motions to approve, seconded by Commissioner Gramling and unanimously passed by the board.**
- d. **Bylaw LMS**
- Kristy Anderson – EM Director
 - LMS is a local mitigation strategy. It is made up of members of the community. Mr. Burris is the chair. We would like the voting to be done virtually and by telephone.
 - **Commissioner Surles motions to approve the bylaws, seconded by Commissioner Hall and unanimously approved by the board.**
- e. **School Board MOU**
- Be able to work with the School Board more cohesively during storms should we need to activate the shelter or apply for grants on their behalf.
 - **Commissioner Surles motions to approve the School Board MOU, seconded by Commissioner Gramling and unanimously passed by the board.**

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f. Animal Control Citation Resolution Authorization

- Counsel asks what happens after the citations are issued. Working on this issue with the Clerk regarding judicial enforcement process. Requesting that the court take additional enforcement action for unpaid citations. Resolution that provides standing authority for the Clerk to take that additional enforcement action. Clerk Hightower was very helpful in bringing this to our attention.
- Clerk Hightower thanks the counsel. Once the citations have not been paid, we can send them to collections.
- Commissioner Surles thanks the Clerk and counsel for addressing this timely.
- **Commissioner Hall motions to approve, seconded by Commissioner Gramling and unanimously passed by the board.**

g. Supplemental Budget

- We received \$5.2 million from DEM, which gives us overall authority.
- **Commissioner Surles motions to approve, Commissioner Gramling seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.**
- Commissioner Surles requests an update on all the cleanup.
- County Manager Metty plans to drive by roads to see that the piles are picked up. We do not want anyone to bring more debris to the side of the road. This does include the city limits.

6. Clerk of Court

- Announces that he will be attending the New Clerk Academy training next week in Tallahassee.

7. County Engineer

- DOT application cycle opens in January and closes in March. Phase II should be approved today, along with the rest of Ashville. DOT wants to phase out the construction into three phases for Ashville.
- County Manager Shannon Metty states the current roads that are on the list.
- Open discussion between county staff and commissioners.

8. Counsel

- School Board has been formally recorded, including the old gym site. Bid for the private road upgrade project and Building A will soon be out. If you guys are working on those, now is the time to get this completed; there is a tight deadline to get grant funds spent by June.

9. County Manager

- The dog kennel is at solid waste but needs to be repositioned. An electrician has been contacted about getting it turned on. Staff have inquired about the holiday schedule. She would like some direction from the Board about whether we should work on

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Christmas and New Years' Eve. On December 18, our state representatives will be here at 1:00 for their delegation.

- Counsel states the calendar that was approved last year (for this year) has those days off.
- Commissioner Surles inquired about the plans for the old gym.
- County Manager wants to put basketball courts in front and have a building in the back attached to the library. Could be used as a meeting space. Also wants to get information about a shelter that could withstand a category 5 hurricane. The current gym has already been condemned twice and has mold and leaks; it will be torn down. We want to get community input first since their dollars are going into it.
- Counsel inquires whether it is possible to request state funding and a mitigation grant.
- County Manager confirms that we can.

10. County Commissioners

- Commissioner Hall explains that you can have the shelter, and it can also be a multipurpose building. Thanks to the county manager. We are on the right path.
- Commissioner Gramling wants to confirm that the bid went out for Aucilla Shores. We need to take time to recognize the issue with the wash-out in Aucilla Shores. The road department went out there and fixed it. She also thanked the Clerks' staff for answering her questions.
- Commissioner Surles thanks Nikki Salls for decorating the courthouse.
- Chairman Hosford instructs constituents to visit Lloyd Depot and see what it looks like. The pothole was fixed; it was a great job.

11. Adjourn

- **Commissioner Gramling motions to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Hall and unanimously approved by the board.**