

JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR SESSION  
July 2, 2013

The Board met this date in regular session. Present were Chairman John Nelson, Commissioners Betsy Barfield, Benjamin oBennyö Bishop, Hines Boyd and Stephen Walker. Also present were County Coordinator Parrish Barwick, County Attorney Buck Bird and Chief Deputy Clerk Tyler McNeill.

**ITEM 3: Consent Agenda**

1. **On motion by Commissioner Barfield, seconded by Commissioner Bishop and unanimously carried, the consent agenda—consisting of the approval of the agenda—was approved.**

**ITEM 5(a): Heritage Roads Resolution**

2. Chairman Nelson relinquished the gavel to Commissioner Barfield and expressed concern that Commissioner Boyd went to other districts for this item. Chairman Nelson requested that Cocroft Road and West Lake Road be taken off this list. Commissioner Bishop stated he could not support this resolution at this time. Commissioner Boyd said he was not oblivious to the fact that this item would cause controversy, but that the Board needed to have a discussion about heritage roads before it was too late. Commissioner Bishop stated he did not object to roads being classified as heritage but did not think it was as simple as a resolution. Commissioner Walker stated his belief that designating roads as heritage roads was a good idea but he had a problem with how it was handled. Commissioner Boyd gave a presentation on roads. After the presentation, Commissioner Barfield said she has no problem with designating a road as a heritage road but would not support a öno-pavingö resolution. Citizen Phil Calandra gave a brief presentation showing paved canopy roads that in his opinion maintained/preserved the look and feel of heritage roads. He also expressed concerns with the resolution. Citizen Jack Carswell said he was against the resolution and that the county should protect the heritage roads but a quick decision should not be made. He made the suggestion that the Board appoint a committee to bring back information and recommendations. Citizen Sonya Herring Vaughn stated that Groover Road was dangerous and sometimes not passable, which concerned her with regards to emergency vehicles. Citizen Dee Counts stated that paving, politics and personalities were getting in the way of protecting and preserving the roads. Citizen Paul Henry stated there was not enough representation. Commissioner Boyd stated that a committee as suggested by Mr. Carswell was a great idea. Citizen Troy Avera said the Board needed to balance the needs of preserving heritage and that there was a cost to preserve but also a cost of not preserving these roads. Citizen Milda Wilson said that West Lake Road needed attention, especially for the people that travel the road seven days a week, not just people on a öSunday drive.ö Citizen Rosa Seabrooks stated that something needed to be done about the condition of these roads. Commissioner Barfield recommended that Commissioner Boyd come back with a different resolution and possibly form a committee to address the roads on the list. Commissioner Boyd said he would not ask for a vote on the resolution. The gavel was restored to Chairman Nelson. Citizen Ruby Davis inquired as to whether Seabrooks Road was on the list, to which Chairman Nelson responded in the affirmative.

**ITEM 5(b): Redistricting Discussion/Prison Population**

3. Commissioner Barfield introduced this item and stated her desire was to take the prison population out of redistricting, but counsel had advised against this. She expressed her

request to have 2 separate maps drawn: one with prison population divided between districts 1 & 3; the other with the prison population staying in district 3. Commissioner Walker expressed his desire to involve the Jefferson County School Board. Citizen C.P. Miller stated he was against splitting the population between two districts. Commissioner Barfield stated that it is possible to split the prison population and was legally defensible. Charles Boland of the School Board stated his desire for the School Board to be included. Citizen Troy Avera stated he was nonplussed at the idea of spending county money on re-districting and that he would like to see county-wide Commissioners. Citizen Ann Holt inquired as to why the Board was letting the prison affect re-districting if its closure was on the horizon. **On motion by Commissioner Barfield, seconded by Commissioner Walker and failed 2 to 3 (Bishop, Boyd and Nelson opposed), the Board did not elect to have two maps drawn.**

**ITEM 5(c): Tax Collector Litigation Issue**

4. County Attorney Buck Bird stated that the Tax Collector's Attorney, Timothy Qualls, wanted to have a special meeting or workshop to discuss and resolve any issues. Commissioner Barfield expressed displeasure with "kicking the can down the road" and said there were two issues: who is paying for the legal fees and a possible ordinance for liability coverage for Constitutional Officers. She requested that a workshop be set up as soon as possible. Citizen C.P. Miller spoke of the character of the Tax Collector. Commissioner Barfield called for a point of order. Commissioner Boyd questioned the relevance to this discussion. It was the consensus of the Board to pull this item. Attorney Bird stated his intention to handle this item prior to the next regular session.

**ITEM 6(a): FY 2013-2014 SHIP Allocation Certification**

5. County Coordinator Parrish Barwick stated that SHIP housing funding was approved and that administration fee had been lowered from 10% to 3%. Esrone McDaniel, with Meridian, stated that \$350,000 had been appropriated for Jefferson County but there were more stringent time constraints than previously. He also stated that the 3% essentially meant there would only be \$10,500 to administer a two-year program. County Coordinator Barwick inquired as to whether the county needed to have an open bid since there was no contract. Mr. McDaniel responded that the county was at liberty to go out for bid, but had the option to renew the contract. County Coordinator Barwick stated he would love to renew with Meridian if it was legal. Chairman Nelson requested Attorney Bird to work with County Coordinator Barwick to see if it was legal and possible to remain with Meridian. Mr. McDaniel stated his intention was to have the BOCC accept the SHIP funds via the allocation certification. Citizen Paul Henry stated it was more expensive than meets the eye and that the lowest paid employee at Meridian was paid \$45/hour. **On motion by Commissioner Boyd, seconded by Commissioner Barfield and carried 4 to 1 (Barfield opposed), the Board accepted the SHIP certification with the intent to have Meridian oversee the project (contingent on it being legal to renew the contract).**

**ITEM 7: Citizen's Forum**

6. Citizen Sonya Redding Vaughn requested that the Board consider beautification of the town, particularly the motel on US-19 north towards Thomasville.
7. Citizen Paul Henry stated that public/private partnerships such as the deal with Meridian were ripe for corruption.

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8. Citizen C.P. Miller stated that the Board's job was to create policy and that the Tax Collect was a Constitutional Officer that answers to the Governor not the Board.
9. Commissioner Boyd said that the only way to realize change and continue democracy is take a bold step.

**ITEM 8: Commissioner Discussion Items**

10. Commissioner Walker inquired as to whether there had been any change with regard to spraying for mosquitos, to which County Coordinator Barwick responded not that he was aware of.
11. Commissioner Barfield praised Commissioner Boyd for holding his tongue and also expressed disappointment with the re-districting decision to not have two maps. She also stated her desire to have the school board at the next workshop.
12. Commissioner Barfield congratulated County Coordinator Parrish Barwick on his one year anniversary and stated her desire to have the Board evaluate his performance/recognize the work done. Chairman Nelson stated that by the next meeting he would like to finalize when and how to perform the evaluation.
13. Chairman Nelson stated that Attorney Robert Morris had asked which Commissioners would be present for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Fireworks at Tiger Stadium, as he was wanted to recognize the elected officials present.
14. Attorney Bird stated he was working with Attorney Bruce Leinbeck on paperwork to terminate sublease between NFCC and Green Industries.

**ITEM 9: Adjournment**

15. The warrant register was reviewed and bills ordered paid.
16. **On motion by Commissioner Bishop, seconded by Commissioner Barfield and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned.**

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk

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Chairman