

JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR SESSION  
July 21, 2015

The Board met this date in regular session. Present were Chairperson Benjamin “Benny” Bishop, Commissioners Betsy Barfield, Hines Boyd, Eugene Hall and Stephen Walker. Also present were County Attorney Buck Bird, County Coordinator Parrish Barwick and Clerk of Court Kirk Reams.

**ITEM 1: Call to Order, Invocation, Pledge of Allegiance**

1. Pastor Helen Johnson Robinson of Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church led the invocation and pledge.

**ITEM 2: Public Announcements, Presentations and Awards**

2. Commissioner Hall introduced a proclamation to Bethel AME. County Coordinator Parrish Barwick read the proclamation and the Board presented it to Pastor Helen Johnson Robinson.

**ITEM 3: Consent Agenda**

3. **On motion by Commissioner Walker, seconded by Commissioner Hall unanimously carried, the consent agenda—consisting of the approval of the agenda, the minutes of the June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2015 Regular Session, the minutes of the July 13<sup>th</sup>, 2015 Emergency Session, the Fred Fox Contract amendment and the Bethel AME Proclamation—was approved.**
4. Chairman Bishop stated that, due to an advertising issue, the hearing on the Land Development Code would need to be rescheduled. **On motion by Commissioner Barfield, seconded by Commissioner Walker and unanimously carried, the LDC hearing was rescheduled for the evening meeting in August.**

**ITEM 5a: 2015/2016 SHIP Certification**

5. County Coordinator Parrish Barwick introduced this item. Commissioner Barfield inquired about the allocation of the \$350,000 and whether it had changed, to which Coordinator Barwick stated it had not. **On motion by Commissioner Hall, seconded by Commissioner Barfield and unanimously carried, the Board approved the SHIP certification.**

**ITEM 5b: Tanker Request**

6. Fire Rescue Chief Mark Matthews presented this item to the Board and stated the tanker would be primarily funded by a grant, with \$11,000 from the County that was budgeted for this item. **On motion by Commissioner Barfield, seconded by Commissioner Walker and unanimously carried, the Board approved the acquisition of the tanker from Fouts Brothers with additional equipment for a total of \$234,321.**

**ITEM 5c: Travel Policy Discussion**

7. Commissioner Barfield introduced this item and requested that the Board increase the meal allowance for employees traveling to conferences/continuing education events. Citizen Paul Henry stated the proposed increase looked to be based on “bloated Federal figures.” He urged the Board to use moderation instead of nearly doubling the current amounts. Chairman Bishop stated he would be more amenable to increase from \$36/day to \$45/day rather than \$56/day. **On motion by Commissioner Barfield, seconded by Commissioner Walker and unanimously carried, the Board approved changing the travel policy to \$45 per day, with allowances as follows: \$10 for breakfast, \$15 for lunch and \$20 for dinner.**

**ITEM 6: County Coordinator – Hurricane Loss Mitigation Program**

8. County Coordinator Parrish Barwick introduced this item and stated that initially there may not be much interest, but after a storm event there would be increased activity if approved. Commissioner Barfield noted the County would give a set percentage and that the program would be administered by a third party, much like the SHIP program. Chairman Bishop asked if the Board would opt-out at any time, to which County Coordinator Barwick responded in the affirmative. **On motion by Commissioner Barfield, seconded by Commissioner Walker and unanimously carried, the Board approved the Hurricane Loss Mitigation program.**

**ITEM 7: Commissioner Discussion Items**

9. Clerk of Court Kirk Reams stated he should have project agreements in the near future from the state for Barrington Road, Big Joe Road and Piney Woods Road.
10. Clerk of Court Reams proposed having budget workshops on Tuesdays, with the first being July 28<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm. Commissioner Barfield asked when the millage rate needed to be set, to which Mr. Reams responded by August 4<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Reams also stated that per the TRIM calendar, the tentative budget hearing would be September 15<sup>th</sup> and the Final Hearing would be September 28<sup>th</sup>.
11. Commissioner Barfield stated that FDOT was widening and resurfacing US-19 and had requested public comment. She requested that the state take a look at some drainage issues on the sidewalk that was just laid.
12. Commissioner Barfield requested that Chris Johnson, lead auditor for Carr Riggs and Ingram, attend the next meeting to present the County audit to the Board. She also requested a digital copy be uploaded to the County website.
13. Commissioner Barfield stated that at the most recent CRTPA meeting, money was approved for a consultant to help prioritize the transportation plan.

14. Commissioner Barfield expressed concern with issues regarding public notice/advertising in the paper for meetings.
15. Commissioner Barfield gave a brief update on the RESTORE Act and stated the county needed to put together a multi-year implementation plan. She requested meeting with County Coordinator Barwick to address this item.
16. Commissioner Boyd stated he was disappointed that the County did not have the scheduled budget meeting but stated he was encouraged by the starting point this year. He stated that for the first time in a while the County might be able to look at reducing the ad valorem tax rate.

**ITEM 8: Adjournment**

17. The warrant register was reviewed and bills ordered paid.
18. **On motion by Commissioner Walker, seconded by Commissioner Barfield and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned.**

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Chairman

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