

JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR SESSION  
August 4, 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. County Coordinator Parrish Barwick led the invocation and pledge.

**ITEM 3: Consent Agenda**

2. Commissioner Barfield asked to pull the Small Grant Application to discuss under General Business. **On motion by Commissioner Barfield, seconded by Commissioner Walker and unanimously carried, the consent agenda as amended—consisting of the approval of the agenda and the minutes of the July 21<sup>st</sup>, 2015 Regular Session—was approved.**

**ITEM 4: Citizens Request & Input on Non-Agenda Items**

3. Citizen Paul Henry thanked Commissioner Barfield for pulling grant item for discussion. He also commented on people not utilizing newly paved sidewalks along US-90.
4. Citizen Troy Avera thanked the Board for their forward thinking with regards to the Wacissa River and Heritage Road program, both of which he said was bringing people to the community, thus contributing to his Bed & Breakfast.
5. Economic Development Director Julie Conley requested a workshop on Project Game Changer later this month or early September. The Board chose August 24<sup>th</sup>, August 31<sup>st</sup> and September 1<sup>st</sup> as potential dates for this workshop.
6. Pam Wilson, with Capital Medical Foundation, introduced herself and briefly discussed her organization’s functions in the county. She requested funding from the Board in the upcoming budget and stated that her foundation currently operates on roughly \$7000 in donations from Jefferson County.
7. Diane Fincham, Executive Director of the Jefferson Senior Center, stated that managed care has taken away much of that the Senior Center used to do. She asked the Board to consider helping the Senior Center keep its doors open via funding in the upcoming budget year.
8. Warden Chris Hodson, with Jefferson Correctional Institute, thanked the Board for their continued support and stated there were jobs available in Corrections both in the County and surrounding area.

**ITEM 5: Small Grant Application (moved from Consent Agenda)  
Certification**

9. Commissioner Barfield stated this grant was for a private, Christian school and stated there may be conflicts or issues with the rules/stipulations. Commissioner Boyd stated he was a supporter of the school that would benefit from the grant, but that the Board needed to make sure using it was using the economic development money as it was intended. Citizen Paul Henry stated he was against using tax dollars for private endeavors. Citizen Dick Bailar stated the Board needed to review the rules and stipulations, as he believed organizations and entities with religious affiliations were excluded. At the request of Commissioner Barfield, the Board tabled this item to a future meeting.

**ITEM 5a: Presentation of Audit**

10. Chris Johnson, auditor for Carr, Riggs & Ingram, presented the County Audit to the Board. He stated the County was in healthy condition and went over different portions of the audit, from the Management Discussion & Analysis to the Audit Findings.

**ITEM 5b: Brownfield Designation for Properties at I-10/Hwy 59 Interchange**

11. Economic Development Director Julie Conley introduced this item and stated that both property owners had retained council and were looking into redeveloping the truck stop at I-10 and Highway 59. Various benefits of designating these properties as Brownfield were discussed, including local, state and federal incentives at no cost to the County. Attorney Joe Uolo, on behalf of one of the property owners, stated the County would mostly benefit from improved property values. Commissioner Boyd asked that—if both parties were interested—what the next step would be, to which Attorney Uolo stated two noticed/advertised designation hearings, one of which would need to be near the physical location discussed. After the two hearings, it would need to be voted on by the Board. Citizen Paul Henry stated it was a shame that entities had to get money from the government to meet government regulations. Clerk of Court Kirk Reams recommended aiming for the second meeting in September for the second meeting. The consensus of the Board was to move forward with the Brownfield designations.

**ITEM 5c: Old Lloyd Road Sidewalk Bid Recommendation**

12. Clerk of Court Kirk Reams introduced this item and stated it was the one piece of paving in this project that had to be bid out separately. **On motion by Commissioner Boyd, seconded by Commissioner Hall and unanimously carried, the Board approved the low bid of Pyramid Excavation for the amount of \$46,743.** Clerk of Court Kirk Reams stated he was working with FDOT and would need an RFQ for another engineer to perform the C.E.I., which was a review of work performed that required an engineer different from the engineer that designed the project. He stated a committee was needed and recommended a committee of Commissioner Barfield, County Coordinator Barwick and himself. Commissioner Barfield stated the Board needed to research

the \$50-\$60k of Bike/Pedestrian money and find out how long the County had before the money “sunsets.”

**ITEM 5d: Contracting for the County**

13. General Contractor Bob Perry stated his concerns about contracting on several projects in the county and stated he was unable to bid on these projects. He asked the Board how he could find out if a job exists and how he could win a bid to work for the County. County Coordinator Parrish Barwick stated that all projects were advertised locally in the Monticello News. He also stated he would be more than happy to directly mail each General Contractor in Jefferson County on each project. County Engineer Daryle Gray stated that all projects were advertised for the designated length in at least the local paper, and often the Tallahassee Democrat as well. Citizen Paul Henry stated that one issue was that some federal programs like CDBG do not give local preference.

**ITEM 5e: Legislative Priorities**

14. Dick Bailar, on behalf of the Legislative Committee, stated it was already time to discuss the next Legislative session. He requested the Board to have priorities/direction for the Legislative Committee by the next meeting if possible and recommended prioritizing projects that needed special funding as opposed to recurring projects like SCRAP/SCOP.

**ITEM 5f: Small Business Development Program Update**

15. Marcia Elder with the Small Business Development Program gave an in-depth update on the program in the form of a slideshow presentation.

**ITEM 5g: SHIP Annual Report Certification**

16. County Coordinator Parrish Barwick introduced this item and stated it needed the Chairman’s signature in order to submit. **On motion by Commissioner Barfield, seconded by Commissioner Walker and unanimously carried, the Board approved the certification.**

**ITEM 5h: Changes to CDBG Participation Plan**

17. County Coordinator Parrish Barwick introduced this item and stated that Department of Economic Opportunity was requesting the three changes be approved by the Board. **On motion by Commissioner Barfield, seconded by Commissioner Hall and unanimously carried, the Board approved the participation plan. On motion by Commissioner Barfield, seconded by Commissioner Walker and unanimously carried, the Board approved the complaint and grievance agreement and procedures. On motion by Commissioner Walker, seconded by Commissioner Barfield and unanimously carried, the Board approved CDBG purchasing agreement.**

**ITEM 7: Commissioner Discussion Items**

18. Commissioner Hall stated he had been working with Superintendent of Schools Al Cooksey about the outdoor basketball court adjacent to Howard Middle School as previously discussed. He stated the only issues were liability and maintenance. Chairman Bishop inquired if the Commissioner Hall was requesting the Board lease the basketball court from the School Board. The Board discussed acquiring the court and the implications/precedent it would set for liability and maintenance purposes. Commissioner Boyd recommended Commissioner Hall bring back a lease agreement from the School Board to the Board.
19. Chairman Bishop read a letter that stated the EMS County Grant funds could now be requested.

**ITEM 8: Adjournment**

20. The warrant register was reviewed and bills ordered paid.
21. **Chairman Bishop adjourned the meeting.**

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

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Chairman