

JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR SESSION  
August 18, 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. Commissioner Hall led the invocation and pledge.

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

2. Chairman Bishop announced the Brownfields District Public Hearing that would be held at the Lloyd Interchange on August 27<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at 6 pm at the Capital City Travel Center/Restaurant.

**ITEM 3: Consent Agenda**

3. **On motion by Commissioner Barfield, seconded by Commissioner Walker and unanimously carried, the consent agenda—consisting of the approval of the agenda, the minutes of the August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2015 Regular Session, Rural Economic Development Resolution, TDC Items (Member Reappointment, FY 15-16 Proposed Budget, Advertising Grant Requests) and Library State Aid Grant Agreement—was approved.**

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

4. Citizen Dick Bailar spoke about the County library and its funding and thanked the Board for its continued commitment to the library.

**ITEM 5a: Ban on Fracking**

5. Amy Datz, of Tallahassee, introduced the topic of fracking and stated her opposition to this practice, citing different impacts fracking could have. She encouraged the Board to pass the resolution to ban fracking. Dr. Bellamy, of Tallahassee, spoke of increased medical and health issues that were present in areas where fracking occurred. David Micah, Director of the Florida Petroleum Council, gave a presentation on fracking and spoke of the benefits of this practice. The following expressed their opposition to fracking: Jefferson County citizen Roy King; Wakulla County Commissioner Kessler; Mr. Tatum and Ms. Jepsim of Fort White; Ms. Sullivan of Madison County; Ms. Moneen with the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs; Ms. Dickert of Madison County; Ms. Bonn; Ms. Merrill; Mr. Fred Williams of Jefferson County. Citizen Paul Henry stated there were holes in the resolution and not enough concrete citation. He urged the Board to further research this issue and carefully deliberate before making a decision. Citizen Phil Calandra suggested the Board not sign the ban and try to get people to find another way to protect the aquifer. Commissioner Walker stated he was

100% in support of the ban on fracking. Commissioner Boyd stated the Board had no legal authority and that people were not giving “regulatory folks enough credit.” He added the Board was taking a risk with an out-right ban.

Commissioner Hall stated he was against the practice of fracking. Chairman Bishop inquired if this ban could be interpreted as a ban on other avenues of exploration/mineral rights and asked Mr. Micah approximately how many states currently had fracking activity, to which Mr. Micah responded approximately 30. **On motion by Commissioner Walker, seconded by Commissioner Hall and carried 3 to 2 (Bishop and Boyd opposed), the Board approved the resolution to ban fracking.**

#### **ITEM 5b: Legislative Priorities**

6. Dick Bailar, on behalf of the Legislative Committee, asked the Board what special priorities/projects it wanted the Legislative Committee to seek funding for in the upcoming session. He stated that standard/rollover items would continue and that the Board did not need to list or prioritize these projects. County Coordinator Barwick stated the Senior Center had been mentioned by the Board, to which Mr. Bailar stated it would be hard for the Legislative Committee to seek funding on this item since the state just cut the budget by \$54,000 and noted it was more of a policy issue than a funding issue. Commissioner Barfield expressed her desire to hear from the Health Department about their proposed renovation project. Mr. Bailar also stated the sports center in Lloyd had been mentioned and requested the Board to provide a list.

#### **ITEM 5c: Millage Rate Discussion/Decision**

7. County Extension Director John Lilly requested the Board approve his appointment and the additional funding of \$5240 to the Extension Department to bring on a new employee. **On motion by Commissioner Barfield, seconded by Commissioner Walker and carried 3 to 2 (Bishop and Boyd opposed), the Board approved the appointment and additional funding.**
8. Commissioner Boyd stated there was enough money in the budget to formulate a plan to reduce the millage rate. **Commissioner Boyd made a motion to reduce the millage rate by .5 mills, to which Commissioner Hall seconded for discussion.** Chairman Bishop stated he liked the millage rate where it presently was and felt it adequately funded departments’ needs. **The above motion failed 2 to 3 (Barfield, Bishop and Walker opposed). On motion by Commissioner Walker, seconded by Commissioner Barfield and carried 3 to 2 (Boyd and Hall opposed), the Board elected to keep the millage rate at 8.3 mills.**
9. County Coordinator Barwick presented the issue of the Building Inspector position. Per Mr. Barwick, the current building inspector is currently funded 50% by Madison County but wishes to terminate his employment with and no longer represent Madison County and work exclusively in Jefferson County.
10. Commissioner Boyd expressed concern about the cost of the Sheriff’s Office and also discussed his recent public records request. Commissioner Walker noted that the Sheriff’s budget was not just for the Sheriff’s Office but also included the jail,

911 and Emergency Management. Citizen Roy King commented it was the price we paid for safety. Citizen Paul Henry noted the Sheriff's realistic use of money on guns and rifles rather than unnecessary items like surplus helicopters. He urged the Board to use caution before making allegations or insinuations about how money was utilized.

**ITEM 7: PUBLIC HEARING: LDC FINAL READING**

11. Commissioner Barfield noted the Board had been working on the Land Development Code for a long period of time and that she took issue with how the final reading had been advertised. She stated that it may be legal and satisfy statutes to advertise in the Tallahassee Democrat, but she felt it should have been advertised in the Monticello News as well. It was the consensus of the Board to re-advertise in the Monticello News to have the final reading at the September 15<sup>th</sup> night meeting.

**ITEM 8: PUBLIC HEARING: G. BISHOP ENTERPRISES PROJECT**

12. Chairman Bishop passed the gavel to Commissioner Walker and abstained from discussion and voting on this issue as it was a conflict of interest. Attorney Buck Bird introduced this item and stated before the Board could move forward, the ordinance would need to be passed. Citizen Paul Henry stated his opposition to the resolution and inquired who would pay for the note if the owner defaulted, to which Commissioner Boyd stated the County would pay until it found another occupant. **On motion by Commissioner Barfield, seconded by Commissioner Boyd and carried 4 to 0 (Bishop abstained), the Board approved the ordinance. On motion by Commissioner Boyd, seconded by Commissioner Hall and carried 4 to 0 (Bishop abstained), the Board approved the resolution. On motion by Commissioner Hall, seconded by Commissioner Boyd and carried 4 to 0 (Bishop abstained), the Board approved the commitment letter of loan. On motion by Commissioner Boyd, seconded by Commissioner Hall and carried 4 to 0 (Bishop abstained), the Board approved the supplemental loan agreement. On motion by Commissioner Boyd, seconded by Commissioner Hall and carried 4 to 0 (Bishop abstained), the Board authorized Commissioner Walker as Vice-Chair and Kirk Reams the Clerk of Court to executive documents, including the lease-purchase agreement.**

**ITEM 9: Commissioner Discussion Items**

13. County Attorney Buck Bird again mentioned the first Brownfields meeting in Lloyd and stated the second meeting would be held at the Annex. Clerk of Court commented that property owners in the area had been noticed via certified mail.
14. Commissioner Hall stated Congresswoman Gwen Graham recently visited the County Library and stated that, in the future, he would like to see the grounds in better condition when the County knows of a visitor coming into town.

**ITEM 10: Adjournment**

15. The warrant register was reviewed and bills ordered paid.

16. **On motion by Chairman Bishop, seconded by Commissioner Walker and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned.**

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Chairman

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