

JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
Regular Session
September 6, 2016

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

1. Commissioner Bishop led the invocation and pledge of allegiance.
2. Commissioner Bishop thanked Utility workers, Emergency Management, Fire/EMS, the Sheriff and Deputies, Solid Waste and others for their efforts and rapid response after Hurricane Hermine. County Coordinator Barwick thanked the public for their patience and asked that they continue to call regarding any debris or downed trees that need attention.
3. **Commissioner Boyd made a motion to approve the consent agenda—consisting of the approval of the agenda, the minutes of the August 16th, 2016 Regular Session and the Non-Profit Organization Grant Program Recommendation for Rainbow’s Edge—to which Commissioner Hall seconded for discussion.** Commissioner Bishop inquired about the grant recommendation. Ms. Roxanne, Director of Rainbow’s Edge non-profit, introduced herself to the Board and explained her non-profit and its need for a small trailer. There was brief discussion about the non-profit utilizing a small horse trailer owned by Solid Waste, but Chairman Walker was concerned about liability issues. **The motion passed 3 to 1 (Bishop opposed).**
4. Citizen Louie Barrington addressed the Board regarding an issue on Richardson Lane (off of Barrington Road). He stated it has been paved for over 30 years and thought it would be more cost effective to pave the road than constantly grading the road. County Coordinator Barwick stated this road went to one house and was basically the County paving a driveway. Commissioner Hall stated he was in favor of the Board paving since the road is listed as a county road. Commissioner Boyd stated another option would be stabilization of the road.
5. Chris Johnson, Auditor with Carr, Riggs & Ingram, presented the Financial Audit to the Board. Commissioner Boyd inquired about the drop in the Solid Waste Reserve balance and asked if the department could continue to function within its means. Solid Waste Director Beth Letchworth stated the department would have to stop buying equipment in order to build up the reserve. There was a brief discussion on Fixed Assets, specifically the possibility of selling the old Extension Office building in order to get it back on the tax roll. County Coordinator Barwick stated several groups have contacted him about leasing the office space but has not received any offers.
6. Dick Bailar, on behalf of the Legislative Committee, requested the Board begin to consider their legislative priorities for 2017. He stated the base priorities will remain on the list, but that he would return in a month to get other priorities from the Board.

7. County Engineer Debbie Preble with Dewberry presented three bids for the St. Augustine Road SCRAP project. Her recommendation was to go with low bidder Peavy & Sons at \$439,025. **On motion by Commissioner Boyd, seconded by Commissioner Bishop and unanimously carried (4-0), the Board accepted Peavy & Sons as the low bidder for the amount of \$439,025.**
8. Emergency Management Director Carol Ellerbe addressed the Board regarding the purchasing policy. She stated that there were issues with the policy, specifically the local preference language, that made the policy “deficient” according to Federal entities—particularly FEMA. County Coordinator Barwick asked if the Board could utilize a procurement process for FEMA similar to CDBG and other Federal or State bid requests. Sheriff David Hobbs stated he just wanted the information presented to the Board so they could research and make the necessary changes as soon as possible. **On motion by Commissioner Hall, seconded by Commissioner Bishop and carried 3 to 1 (Boyd opposed), the Board approved the County procurement policy being modified to comply with FEMA requirements.**
9. Chairman Walker introduced the Game Changer item and stated that the referendum failed in every precinct of the County. Commissioner Bishop stated the taxpayers had made it clear they do not want their money put into this project. Jake Whitfield, with Red Hills Sports Group, stated he supported the decision of the Jefferson County citizens and stated he would be bringing a privately funded model of the project before the Board at a future meeting.
10. County Coordinator Parrish Barwick noted that Chairman Walker signed an emergency proclamation regarding Hurricane Hermine.
11. Attorney Buck Bird stated he was still negotiating with the School Board about dividing the payment of plaintiffs’ attorney fees as a result of the re-districting lawsuit.
12. The warrant register was reviewed and bills ordered paid.
13. **On motion by Commissioner Bishop, seconded by Commissioner Boyd and unanimously carried (4-0), the meeting was adjourned.**

Chairman

Attest: _____
Clerk