

JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
Regular Session
October 18, 2016

The Board met this date in regular session. Present were Chairman Stephen Walker, Commissioners Betsy Barfield, 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 Hall led the invocation and pledge of allegiance.
2. Alton Brock, with TLC Engineering, gave a presentation to the Board on his company’s role in helping county’s receive public assistance funds related to disaster recovery.
3. Property Appraiser Angela Gray presented a check for unspent funds from budget year 2015/2016 in the amount of \$4032.20.
4. Commissioner Walker requested that Taxable Value be added as an item under general business. **On motion by Commissioner Barfield, seconded by Commissioner Boyd and unanimously carried, this item was added to the Agenda.**
5. **On motion by Commissioner Barfield, seconded by Commissioner Boyd and unanimously carried, the consent agenda as amended was approved.**
6. Citizen Roy Campbell asked the Board why they kept pursuing projects like the two buildings on US-19 and the Game Changer project. He stated his belief that developers and property owners should take on these projects with private money, not government funds.
7. Property Appraiser Angela Gray stated that the Value Adjustment Board went over figures for the Final Tax Roll and that the final taxable value increased by 3% due to settlements with Florida Gas and Verizon. She stated the County Commission could roll back the millage rate to 7.7198 mills, but the Board would need to make a decision and inform the Clerk prior to Friday, October 21st. **On motion by Commissioner Boyd, seconded by Commissioner Hall and unanimously carried, the Board approved making the adjustment to the millage rate.**
8. Commissioner Hall introduced the Rocky Branch Road resurfacing request item. He stated that this was inside the city limit, but .4 miles were within District 2. Commissioner Hall inquired that, if approved, where would it come from, to which County Coordinator Parrish Barwick stated the Road Department budget. Clerk of Court Kirk Reams commented that this portion of road may be eligible for future SCOP funding. **Commissioner Hall made a motion to take \$34,000 from the Road Department’s budget for the paving of Rocky Branch Road.** Commissioner Boyd stated he would support the motion if it were amended to say the Road Department would be reimbursed by RESTORE Act funds or FEMA funds. **Commissioner Hall revised his motion to reflect the above and**

Commissioner Boyd seconded for discussion. City Councilwoman Julie Conley stated she was speaking as a citizen (not in her elected capacity). She said that with the road crew already mobilized and paving Mamie Scott Drive, their price to pave this portion of Rocky Branch might be lower. Citizen Chuck Sarkisian stated there were other areas that needed attention, like Pearl Street. Citizen Paul Henry stated his belief that this should be taken before the City of Monticello. Citizen Joe Rosmini stated the city was part of the County and that the County should pave it. City Councilman Troy Avera stated he was speaking as a citizen (not in his elected capacity). He said that the County should be able to help when it came to connector roads, but that this issue really needed to be taken before the City Council. Clerk of Court Kirk Reams stated that, at this point in time, no ad valorem revenues go toward funding the Road Department. Commissioner Barfield stated this would be setting a precedent, to which Commissioner Boyd stated the precedent was already set when the County paved a portion of Martin Luther King Avenue. Commissioner Bishop stated he would feel better if the Board voted after receiving a request from City Council. **The motion failed 2 to 3 (Barfield, Bishop and Walker opposed).**

9. Chief Deputy Clerk Tyler McNeill introduced the purchasing policy item and stated the only change was the removal of the local preference language, per Carol Ellerbe with Emergency Management and the state and federal requirements. County Coordinator Barwick stated this would need Board approval before changes went into effect. Sheriff David Hobbs stated this change was necessary in order for County to be reimbursed by FEMA. **On motion by Commissioner Barfield, seconded by Commissioner Bishop and unanimously carried, the Board approved the changes to the purchasing policy.**

10. County Coordinator Parrish Barwick introduced the Glen Bishop Enterprises lease update item. Commissioner Boyd requested the Board defer action on the lease until the Board received some answers from Mr. Bishop about his intentions. He stated concern that it took so long to get the lease and also that someone occupied the building for nearly a year without rent payments. Attorney Bird stated there had been a draft contract for over 8 months, but there had been no questions from the Board and that he recommended a workshop if the Board needed more information at this point. Attorney Bird stated the one issue that needed to be decided was whether the Board would allow a “month to month” lease or if the would require the lessee be obligated to the full 7 year lease. Commissioner Barfield stated she would not approve a month to month lease. Commissioner Boyd stated that no one was more supportive of the project than him, but that there were red flags such as only three payments being received and a commercial realtor sign outside of the building. He noted that this was not built as a spec rental, but rather to help someone start and grow a local business. Commissioner Barfield stated that the lease needed to be year to year at the least. Citizen Paul Henry commented that the County was in a mess because this type of activity is not a necessary function of government. Citizen Chuck Sarkisian recommended an early termination agreement or default close be included. Attorney Bird recommended working with Glen Bishop since everything was agreed upon except whether the lease would be month to month. **Commissioner Barfield made a motion for a year to year lease. The motion died for lack of a second.** Chairman Walker stated that if something on the lease needed to be

adjusted, that Mr. Bishop should come before the Board. **On motion by Commissioner Barfield, seconded by Commissioner Hall and carried 4 to 0 (Bishop abstained), the Board requested that in one month this lease be agreed upon and finalized by November 15th or have GBE vacate the property.**

11. Commissioner Barfield inquired about tax abatement and stated that she would like to discuss this item in the future since it passed referendum.
12. Attorney Bird stated that it was his understanding that the School Board's intent was to pay for their portion of the attorney's fees in the re-districting lawsuit, but noted he had not received much communication from them.
13. The warrant register was reviewed and bills ordered paid.
14. **On motion by Commissioner Bishop, seconded by Commissioner Hall and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned.**

Chairman

Attest: _____
Clerk