

Jasper County Board of Commissioners

April 3, 2023

Regular Meeting Minutes

6:00 P.M.

Chairman Jernigan called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Commissioners Present: Don Jernigan, Chairman; Sheila Jones, Vice-Chairman; Bruce Henry; Gerald Stunkel; and Steven Ledford.

Staff: Mike Benton, County Manager, Sharon Robinson, Administrative Services Director, Larissa Ruark, Chief Accounting Officer, and Barry Fleming, Fleming Nelson Attorney Group

Pledge of Allegiance:

Invocation: Commissioner Bruce Henry, District 2.

Agenda Approval: Commissioner Stunkel motioned to add JDA Board appointment to the agenda. Commissioner Ledford seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Commissioner Stunkel Motioned to approve the agenda as amended. Commissioner Ledford seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Consent Agenda:

Commissioner Henry motioned to update the meeting minutes for March 6, 2023 to reflect that Chairman Jernigan called the meeting to order; and approve Work Session Minutes of February 27, 2023. Commissioner Ledford seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

- February 27, 2023- Work Session Minutes
- March 6, 2023- Regular Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Ledford motioned to approve Check #s **67164-67407**. Commissioner Stunkel seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Public Hearings: None

Presentations/Delegations- Jennifer Lassen, Executive Director- Monticello/Jasper County Chamber of Commerce- Jennifer Lassen stood before the board to introduce herself as the new Executive Director of the Chamber of Commerce.

Citizens Comments:

- **Jason Bunn (Bailey Road)** – Mr. Bunn asked what are we doing to protect our kids in Jasper County.
- **John Henderson (Herds Creek Road)** - Mr. Henderson complimented the Public Works Department & Commissioner Ledford for work that they completed on Herds Creek.
- **David Thompson (Forsyth Street)** - Mr. Thompson spoke about the scenic byways and ask that the Scenic Byway Commission of 1992 be reactivated.
- **James Belcher (Hillsboro)** –Mr. Belcher thanked the Board of Commissioner for backing and participating in the Jasper County Day of Kindness.

County Commissioner's Items

Commissioner Ledford- Commissioner Ledford complimented the Public Works department for their hard work during recent rains.

Commissioner Stunkel- None

Commissioner Jernigan- None

Commissioner Jones- Commissioner Jones asked for an update on Greer Road.

Chairman Henry- Commissioner Henry stated that the land has been purchased and ground breaking for the Food Bank will be this week.

Business Items:

Item 1: Jasper County Public Facilities Authority- Board:

Mr. James Thiele stood before the PFA board. He stated that it is a balance between supporting his county and using his business background to help the county.

Commissioner Stunkel motioned to re-appoint James Thiele to the Public Facilities Authority Board. Commissioner Ledford seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Mr. Bill Nash stood before the board to express why he should be reappointed to the PFA Board. He stated that they initially spent months figuring out who they were, what to do and how to do it. He feels like he has been instrumental.

Commissioner Henry motioned to re-appoint Bill Nash to the Public Facilities Authority Board. Commissioner Ledford seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Mr. Howard Fore expressed his interest in being appointed to the PFA Board. He stated that we need to do something to help the children in the county.

Commissioner Jones motioned to appoint Mr. Howard Fore to the Public Facilities Authority Board. Commissioner Ledford seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Chairman Jernigan stated that he would like to continue to serve as the Board of Commissioner Representative on PFA board.

Commissioner Stunkel motioned to appoint Commissioner Jernigan as the Board of Commissioners Representative to the Public Facilities Authority Board. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion, passed 4-0 (Commissioner Jernigan abstained).

Item 1a: JDA Board Appointment:

Commissioner Henry motioned to reappoint Commissioner Stunkel as the representative from the Jasper County Board of Commissioners to the JDA Board. Commissioner Ledford seconded the motion, passed 4-0 (Commissioner Stunkel abstained).

Item 2: NEGRC Area on Aging 2023 American Rescue Plan (ARPA) Contract- Senior Center:

Senior Center Director Brenda Jacobs explained that the Senior Center has received ARPA funds.

Commissioner Ledford motioned to authorize chairman Jernigan to sign the NEGRC ARPA contract to receive the ARPA Funds. Commissioner Ledford seconded the motion, pass unanimously.

Item 3: Senior Center 2009 Ford E-350 Van Replacement Vehicle:

Ms. Jacobs explained that it is hard for them to find a new van or bus. They are selling quickly each time they find one. She advised of the vehicles that are available.

The commissioners advised Ms. Jacobs to not compromise on the things that they need.

Commissioner Ledford motioned to allow the Senior Center staff to put down \$3000 to hold the vehicle once they find it to give our mechanic time to check it out. Commissioner Stunkel seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Commissioner Stunkel motioned to authorize the purchase of 2023 passenger bus in the amount of \$116,100 to be paid with ARPA funds. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Item 4: Participation Forms for the New National Opioid Settlements:

Mr. Benton stated that the county chose to participate in the National Opioid Program Settlements. The county has received money.

Mr. Fleming (interim county attorney) stated that this decision should be easier than the initial one. These cases are already settled it is just a matter of where the county wants to receive funds from the settlement.

Commissioner Henry motioned to direct the chairman to execute the requisite Participation Forms for Teva, Allergan, CVS, Walgreens, and Walmart (collectively the "New Opioid Settlements") prior to the April 18, 2023 deadline. Commissioner Ledford seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Item 5: Recreation Department Football Fields Discussion:

Mr. Benton stated that staff is seeking approval of the board to have conversation with the new owners of Rose Bowl Field (Monticello Baptist Church) to discuss short term usage of the field for our football program. We would ask the Board of Education for the use of the parking lot behind Thomas Person's Hall.

Commissioner Henry motioned to authorize Staff to meet with the Monticello Baptist Church to discuss short term usage of Rose Bowl Field and to meet with the Jasper County Board of Education to discuss short term usage of the parking lot behind Thomas Persons Hall for the purpose of providing additional capacity for County Recreation Football Program activities; passed unanimously. Commissioner Stunkel seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Item 6: Landfill Operations Discussion:

Mr. Benton stated that we been running a Certified Construction & Demolition Landfill since 2010. Historically EPD has allowed non organic items to be placed in the landfill. They have recently come up with tighter enforcement of their own rules of what can be placed in the landfill. The Public Works Director and County Manager are looking into what it is going to take to modify operations. For this reason Staff recommends delaying the free month of dumping.

Chairman Jernigan stated that he has been asked several times about the free dump month. He stated that a committee was formed last year to discuss a way that we can still do the free dump. It would be set up so that residents will get one free dump per year through a voucher program.

Commissioner Jernigan motioned to have the Landfill committee to meet and discuss feasibility for one free dump per address in the county for the year and create vouchers. Commissioner Henry seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Item 7: Schedule Work Sessions and Called Meetings as Needed:

The commissioners decided that the current Work Sessions for the budget meetings are sufficient. They changed the May 5th Work Session to a Called Meeting.

County Attorney Items: None

County Manager Update:

Mike Benton gave an updated of the numbers for building permits for the current year in comparison to the past year. The Jackson Lake Road project is scheduled to start in the first week of May, weather permitting. Gay Road and Aldridge Road are both still closed due to last weeks' rain. The groundbreaking ceremony for the Jail and Food Bank are next week.

Executive Session:

None

Adjourn: Commissioner Stunkel motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 p.m. Commissioner Ledford seconded the motion, passed unanimously.


Don Jernigan, Chairman
Sharon Robinson, Clerk