

**Jasper County Board of Commissioners**  
**May 17, 2021**  
**Called Meeting Minutes**  
**6:00 P.M.**

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

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

Staff Present: Mike Benton, County Manager, Sharon Robinson, Administrative Services Director, and David Ozburn, County Attorney.

**Pledge of Allegiance:**

**Invocation:** District 3- Commissioner Don Jernigan

**Agenda Approval:** Commissioner Stunkel motioned to approve the motion. Commissioner Ledford seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

**Consent Agenda:**

**Public Hearing:** Commissioner Ledford motioned to go into Public Hearing at 6:03 p.m. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

**A public hearing will be held for an update on the 2018 Comprehensive Plan Amendment- Short Term Work Program.**

Mr. Mike Benton stated the State of Georgia to update their Joint Comprehensive Plan every five years. The State also requires counties that participate in the impact fee program to complete an annual Capital Improvement Element-Short Term Work Program. Updates are allowed during the five year program. We have an update for the Short Term work program. The grant writer is suggesting that we add the Food Bank to the Comprehensive Plan.

**In Favor- None**

**Opposed- Mary Patrick-** Ms. Patrick stood before the board and stated that she does not think it is a good idea to put taxpayer dollars into private organizations.

Commissioner Jernigan motioned to close the Public Hearing at 6:07 p.m. Commissioner Stunkel seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

**Presentations/Delegations- Postponed**

**Citizens Comments:**

Mary Patrick- Ms. Patrick stated that she has been disappointed with the Magistrate Judge's use of funds. She stated that she hopes that the board does not award the Magistrate with a budget increase. She also asked that the board think about the homeowners when giving increases to departments.

Bill Daugherty- Mr. Daugherty state that he has heard rumors about information that was requested and was refused. Chairman Henry stated that the situation that Mr. Daugherty is referring to was with the City of Monticello.

**County Commissioner's Items:**

**Commissioner Ledford**- None

**Commissioner Stunkel**- None

**Commissioner Jernigan**- None

**Commissioner Jones**- None

**Chairman Henry**-

**Regular Agenda:**

**Item 1: 2018 Comprehensive Plan Amendment- Short Term Work** - Commissioner Stunkel motioned to approve Resolution #2021.05.14 adopting the 2018 Comprehensive Plan Amendment- Short Term Work Program as presented. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

**Item 2: FY 2022 Employee Health Insurance Program:** Mr. Kelly Fox (Apollon Wealth Benefits) stood before the board to present the option for health insurance for county benefits. He stated that everything is staying the same, there is no change in cost or coverage. He stated that we had some unexpected claims as usual mostly linked to COVID. He stated that we are \$120,826 deficit in the loss fund. The because of how we are structured the county does not have to pay anything. HRA spending went up because of COVID as well.

Commissioner Jernigan motioned to approve the FY 2022 Employee Health, Basic Life, Dental, and Vision insurance renewal rates as presented. Commissioner Stunkel seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

**Item 3: Tax Assessor's Office Vehicle:** Ms. Lynn Bentley stood before the board to present options to replace the Tax Assessor vehicle which a tree fell on. She stated that the Assessor's office has had an increase in unexpected revenue.

Commissioner Stunkel motioned to get quotes to replace the Tax Assessor's vehicle with a new Subaru not to exceed \$32,000 to be funded with Fund Balance and insurance proceeds. Commissioner Ledford seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

**Item 4: FY 2022 Budget Discussion:** Mr. Benton presented the updated budget information. As of right now the proposed budget is \$11,870,068 before any compensation increases and new positions.

Mr. Benton stated that an option for a space for the new potential Finance person is the area where Probation is currently located.

The Magistrate Judge stood before the board to give explanation to his budget request. Some of the adjustments are just corrections. He stated his increase request is for his assistant's salary. He stated that this is because he has not requested an increase for her in the last four years. He explained the capacity in which the Judge Johnson works. Judge addressed Commissioner Stunkel requesting that he come directly to him for any issues that he may have instead of the local press outlet.

In regards to salary increase decision, Commissioner Stunkel stated that HR Director & Department head should be involved in the decision for the rate of increase. The HR Director and the County Manager should be involved in deciding the increase rates for the Department Heads.

Commissioner Stunkel requested the updated version of the budget so that they can earmark items that may be able to be reduced.

Commissioner Stunkel motioned to move balance of FY 2021 CARES Act money in the amount of \$590,535 to the Capital Fund 351. Commissioner Ledford seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Commissioner Stunkel instructed staff to remove the large van for the Senior Center.

Commissioner Stunkel motioned to purchase all items on the revised Capital Expenditures list:

- Four Patrol vehicles- \$170,000
- New ambulance - \$180,000
- Two Tinder Tankers- \$520,000
- Road Tractor- \$120,000
- Boom Tractor- \$165,000
- Dump Trailer- \$7,000
- Three Quarter Ton pick-up truck- \$26,000
- Half to pick-up truck- \$25,000
- Transport Van for Meals on Wheels- \$15,000
- Vision Screener- \$7980

For a total of \$1,235,980 to come from Fund 351 Capital Fund and for each item to be quoted and brought back for individual approval to purchase. Commissioner Ledford seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

**Item 5: Schedule Work Sessions and Called Meetings:** The board agreed to the previously scheduled Work Session to be held on Monday, May 24<sup>th</sup>.

**County Attorney Items:** None

**County Manager Items:**

**Executive Session:** Commissioner Ledford motioned to go into Executive Session at 8:00 p.m. to discuss potential litigation. Commissioner Stunkel seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Commissioner Stunkel motioned to exit Executive Session at 8:25 p.m. Commissioner Ledford seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

**Adjourn:**

Commissioner Stunkel motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m. Commissioner Jernigan seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

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Bruce Henry, Chairman

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Sharon Robinson, Clerk