

**Jasper County Board of Commissioners**  
**September 13, 2021**  
**Regular 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:** Commissioner Sheila Jones

**Agenda Approval:** Commissioner Stunkel motioned to approve the agenda as presented. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

**Consent Agenda:**

Commissioner Jernigan motioned to approve the minutes for August 2, 2021 and August 23, 2021 as presented. Commissioner Ledford seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Commissioner Jones motioned to approve Check Register Check #s- 62232-62635. Commissioner Jernigan seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

**Public Hearing: None**

**Presentations/Delegations-** Mary Patrick stood before the board to present the proclamations for Constitution Day and a Citizenship Day, and Freedom Week.

Commissioner Jernigan motioned to adopt the proclamation and have it signed by the Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Ledford seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

**Citizens Comments:**

**Sandra Carter-** Ms. Carter stood before the board to and read part of a letter from the pastor. The letter is requesting that the Board of Commissioners issue a proclamation, certificate of recognition, or congratulatory letter that recognizes the rich history and legacy of the St. John C.M.E church family in honor of their 130<sup>th</sup> church anniversary. Their Church Anniversary will be celebrated on November 21<sup>st</sup>.

**Gail Harrell-** Ms. Harrell stood before the board to inform the Commissioners that the City of Monticello voted and approved in their August Meeting to Put the Founding Documents in the City Council Chambers. There was an anonymous donor to pay for the documents. She invites all of the Commissioner to attend the event if at all possible.

**County Commissioner's Items:**

**Commissioner Ledford-** None

**Commissioner Stunkel-** None

**Commissioner Jernigan-** Commissioner Jernigan asked about the weather alert siren on Pintail.

Chief Finch stated that all of the weather sirens in the county works. The one on Pintail activates but do not rotate. The company that services the sirens does not have a truck tall enough to service to the siren. He stated that they are looking to get pricing for a crane to get up there and fix it.

Commissioner Jernigan ask about a weather siren in Hillsboro.

Chief Finch stated that he gave a price a while ago. The price was about \$19K. The sirens are tested the first and 3<sup>rd</sup> week of each month.

Commissioner Jernigan asked about the resurfacing of Pintail.

County Manager Mike Benton stated that he spoke with Pittman today. He explained their planned schedule starting with Post Road. The paving on both projects should be completed by Mid-October. The projects should be completed totally by the end of October.

Commissioner Jernigan asked about brush cutting quotes.

Mike Benton stated that he will bring some pricing to the October meeting.

Commissioner Jernigan ask about the Stop signs in Lakeview Estates.

Mike Benton stated that they are still on the to-do list.

**Commissioner Jones**- None

**Chairman Henry**-

**Regular Agenda:**

**Item 1: Joint Development Authority FY 2022 Budget & FY 2021 Budget Amendment:** Commissioner Stunkel stated that reason for amended 2021 budget is originally when making the deal for the Baymare project they agreed to build an access road on the opposite side of the interstate and the cost for that was assumed to be in 2021 but as they got closer it was partially 21-22. Some of the expenditures have been moved from 21 to 22 budget so that it is reflected when the money will actually be spent.

Commissioner Jernigan motioned to approve the Joint Development Authority Budgets for FY 2022 and FY 2021 Amended as presented. Commissioner Ledford seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

**Item 2: Jasper County Recreation Board Appointments:** Miranda Hudson stood before the board to explain why she would like to serve on the Recreation Board. She stated that she has been involved in two incidents that happened recently. One was handled well by the board and the other needed improvement. She stated that we need to look at who we are bringing in as coaches. She stated that she wants to be part of the solution.

Commissioner Ledford motioned to appoint Miranda Hudson to the Jasper County Recreation Board for a 3-year term ending September 2024. Commissioner Jernigan seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

**Item 3: JCWSA Enabling Legislation Amendment- Board Size:** Commissioner Ledford stated that we are having a hard time filling the positions on the board. He stated that he thinks nine people are way too many to try to come up with a solution for the county needs.

Chairman Henry stated that the enabling legislation for the board was enacted in 1999.

Commissioner Ledford stated that there are 7 active members on the board right now.

County Ozburn stated that there are several ways that this can be done. Since we are requesting the enabling legislation to change the number. They and reset the table, they can let it transition over time where people's term ends, or the term can be eliminated when the seat is eliminated.

Commissioner Ledford stated that there has been some confusion in how long the terms were. The legislation states 3 years.

Commissioner Ledford stated that there are two active members whose terms end June 30, 2024 and the other ends September 30, 2024. The rest of the board March or July of 2026.

David Ozburn stated that there can be a cooperative solution between the Board and the Authority otherwise his opinion is that their terms end after 3 years despite what was understood at the time.

Chairman Henry asked if they are looking at a 5 member board or 7 member board.

Commissioner Ledford stated that he would like to get a feel of the BOC. He honestly thinks 5 would be sufficient.

Commissioner Ledford motioned to request local legislation delegation to pass legislation amending the enabling legislation of JCWSA to reduce the board size from 9 members to 5 member board, with the method of transitioning to a lower number to be determined later. Commissioner Stunkel seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

**Item 4: Jasper County Water and Sewer Authority Board Appointments:** Commissioner Stunkel stated that in light of the last motion he would like to see this item tabled leaving the vacant seats vacant until the after the assembly considers our request to lower the number of board members. Commissioner Stunkel motioned to table until enabling legislation worked out. Commissioner Ledford seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

**Item 5: Planning and Zoning Board Appointment:** Mr. Bill Nash stood before the board to explain why he would like to serve on the board. He stated that he moved here about 6 years ago.

Commissioner Ledford ask if Mr. Nash thinks that serving on two boards would take up to much of his time.

Mr. Bobby Jacobs stood before the board and withdrew his application.

Commissioner Stunkel motioned to appoint Bill Nash to Planning and Zoning Board for a 3-year term ending September 2024. Commissioner Ledford seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

**Item 6: Senior Center FY 2021 Budget Amendment:** Mr. Dennis Pate stood before the board to present the request of the budget amendments. The Senior Center received from Northeast Georgia Regional Commission (NEGRC) Area Agency on Aging a total of \$114,061.14. The original budgeted revenue for FY 2021 was \$88,112. The Budget amendment amount is \$25,949.

Commissioner Ledford motioned to approve Budget Amendment #20221.09.13A in the amount of \$29, 949. Commissioner Jernigan seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

The Senior Center received emergency funding through the CARES Act for \$22,670.06, ADRC CARES funding for \$6,084.15, and FFCRA funding for \$5,230.90. We are requesting a budget amendment for FY21 totaling \$33,985.11 to help offset the cost for extra meals for the aging during the pandemic.

Commissioner Jernigan motioned to approve Budget Amendment #20221.09.13B in the amount of \$33,985.11. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

**Item 7: Human Resources Report:** HR Director Sharon Robinson presented the Human Resources report for the period of July 2021- September 2021

**Current Open Positions**

Operator I  
Senior Center Director  
EMT  
Paramedics  
911 Dispatchers

**New Hires**

Public Works – 1  
Fire Rescue – 1 (part-time)  
Sheriff - 2  
Jail – 3  
Animal Control – 1 (part-time)  
Assistant DA Secretary/Victims Advocate – 1  
Recreation – 1  
Finance - 1

**Terminations/Resignations**

Public Works – 2  
Sheriff – 3  
Jail - 2  
Fire Rescue – 1  
Recreation – 2 (part-time)  
Assistant DA Secretary – 1  
Superior Court – 1  
Senior Center - 1

**Total Employees** = 168

Full-time = 124

Part-time = 44

**Board Report:**

Jasper County Library Board: 1  
Jasper County Water & Sewer Authority:  
Jasper County DFCS Board: 1  
Jasper County Recreation Board: 2

**Item 8: FY2021 Audit Engagement- Clifton, Lipford, Hardison & Parker, LLC:** Finance Director Dennis Pate stood before the board. He stated that he is seeking the board's approval for the County Manager to sign the Engagement Letter so that we can proceed with the FY 2021 audit. The only difference this year is the cost increased by \$1000.

Commissioner Ledford motioned to approve County Manager Mike Benton to execute the FY 2021 Audit Engagement letter for Clifton, Lipford, Hardison, & Parker to perform the audit of Jasper County, Georgia. Commissioner Stunkel seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

**Item 9: New Public works Shop Building- Final Cost Funding Source:** Mike Benton stated that the grand total for the Public Works Shop was \$507,537.00. When the bid was original awarded the 2012 SPLOST had not been expended yet. That total was \$138,717. The difference is \$349,188. We can use General Fund, Fund Balance or the General Fund.

Commissioner Stunkel motioned to approve to pay \$349,188 from the Capital Fund Balance to pay balance Public Works Shop Project. Commissioner Jernigan seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

**Item 10: CDBG Health Department Project- Remaining Funds Disposition:** Mike Benton stated that Mark Beatty is looking for a decision on what the county would like to do with the Remaining Grant Funds. The total

remaining is \$25,950. The options are use it to pay the remaining grant fee that is owed to the Regional Commission which is \$25,000. We could use it to pay down the loan on the building.

Commissioner Jernigan motioned to pay \$25,950 to the debt service. Commissioner Stunkel seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

**Item 11: Schedule Work Sessions and Called Meetings:** The board has a Work Session scheduled for Friday, September 17, 2021 with Jasper County Board of Education at 3:30 p.m. in the small courtroom.

**County Attorney Items:**

None, but would like an Executive Session for potential litigation.

**County Manager Items:** Mike Benton stated that he spoke with Kedric Collins the District Traffic Engineer. Jordan is constructing engineering plan with a D-cell lane. Mr. Collins assured him that all of the traffic items including the need for a turning lane or passing lane will be looked at. The Senior Center Director Interviews start this week. There are 18 new construction permits for August 2021 40 total in August. There are 109 new construction through August 2021. Total permits for 2021 is 439.

**Executive Session:**

Commissioner Jones motioned to go into Executive Session to discuss potential litigation at 7:00 p.m. to discuss potential litigation. Commissioner Jernigan seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Commissioner Ledford motioned to exit Executive Session at 7:55 p.m. Commissioner Stunkel seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

**Adjourn:**

Commissioner Ledford motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 p.m. Commissioner Stunkel seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

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Bruce Henry, Chairman

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Sharon Robinson, Clerk