

**Jasper County Board of Commissioners &  
Jasper County Board of Education  
September, 2021  
Joint Work Session Minutes  
3:00 P.M.**

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

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

Staff Present: Mike Benton, County Manager and Sharon Robinson, County Clerk.

**Work Session:**

1. Revenue Sharing Agreement

The Board of Commissioners and the Board of Education introduced themselves.

David Ozburn shared the history of the Joint Development Authority. Initially there were not any revenue sharing agreements. In 2016 a new Revenue Sharing Agreement was formed. That is when they discovered that under State Law the BOE has the right to Ad Valorem Tax. With every agreement Jasper County has had to be different.

Chairman Henry asked that everyone say what they think of feel and move forward from there.

Commissioner Don Jernigan stated that we need to do what is best for Jasper County. He stated that everything we do is for the good of the entire county. He also stated that he thinks the BOE should receive 30% of the 10% that the county receives.

Commissioner Jones stated that she does not have a lot of comments but hope that we can come to an agreement today.

Commissioner Ledford stated that he is still trying to get his head wrapped around it all. He stated that this money could be used to build a new recreation center which we all know is needed.

Commissioner Stunkel stated that he wants to get a resolution soon. He would like to see the money go towards education and not sports.

Chairman Henry stated that he would like to see a workable agreement. He stated that he would like to see whatever is decided on as a long term agreement.

Superintendent Kenny Garland stated that he feels like the school system represents the county as well. In moving forward since these funds show up on the digest it affects the money coming into the school as well. The state assumes that the BOE is receiving funds. He asked if it is an expectation that the BOE contributes to the Central GA EMC broadband project.

Towonder Dennis stated that she wants to come to an agreement as one to make our community better.

Shannon Barton stated that she is trying to get her head wrapped around it as well. We all represent the same people.

Chairman Henry addressed the BOE Director of Finance Anne Harrison. He asked her if he was correct in say that numbers that she has given are projections since she does not know the exact numbers. He stated that we need to come up with a way to cover whatever the BOE is losing plus 20%.

Mr. Garland stated that he thinks that would be difficult and a lot of questioning about the calculations. He stated that he would recommend a set amount instead.

Mr. Rice stated that he thinks the BOE should get 50%.

Commissioner Jernigan stated that 50% is out of the question.

Ms. Barton stated that there is no way to really know what we would have gotten.

Mr. Garland stated that he recommends that we not do the 20% plus the loss because they do not know what the loss will be. He threw out the option for 40-60 which he feels is meeting in the middle. He feels the 40% would cover the BOE on anything that they decide to do.

Commissioner Ledford asked what happens when that 40% does not cover the BOE's loss.

Mr. Garland asked how long they think the agreement should be when they say long term.

Commissioner Jernigan stated 50 years.

Mr. Ozburn stated that 50 years is the longest an IGA can exist.

Mr. Garland stated that he thinks that we should revisit this in 5 years.

Commissioner Jernigan stated that he would be very comfortable at 35-65 and reevaluate in 5 years.

Commissioner Jernigan asked if we could have a joint called meeting before either of the Board's next regular meeting.

The group decided to have a joint meeting on Monday October 4, 2021 during the BOC's regular meeting.

Chairman Henry declared the Work Session closed at 5:00 p.m.

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Bruce Henry, Chairman

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Sharon S. Robinson, Clerk