

**Jasper County Board of Commissioners**  
**February 7, 2022**  
**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: Sharon Robinson, County Clerk, Dennis Pate, Finance Director, Mike Benton, County Manager, and David Ozburn, County Attorney.

**Pledge of Allegiance:**

**Invocation:** Commissioner Jernigan, District 3

**Agenda Approval:** Commissioner Jernigan motioned to remove item #9 from the agenda. Commissioner Ledford seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Commissioner Stunkel approve the agenda as presented. Commissioner Ledford seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

**Consent Agenda:**

Commissioner Ledford motioned to approve the:

- December 20, 2021- Called Meeting Minutes
- January 3, 2022- Regular Meeting Minutes
- January 13, 2022- Called Meeting Minutes
- January 24, 2022- Called Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Jones seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Commissioner Jones motioned to approve Check #s 63491-63735. Commissioner Jernigan seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

**Public Hearings:** None

**Presentations/Delegations-** None

**Citizens Comments:**

**Mary Patrick- Monticello-** Ms. Patrick Stood before the board and stated that she is glad they remove item#9. She thought that we just paid our County Attorney to go through our development ordinances and now we have services for over \$7,000 plus an hourly rate which is not listed. She asked since the vendor is from out of state will we have to pay travel as well. She stated that we have someone in this county that can give you all the information you need to know about the codes. Peggy Billerman knows the code inside and out. Seven thousand dollars is a waste of our money. She stated that she has not been able to see how much the attorney charged to go through the ordinances before. She also stated that if you do not enforce your codes they don't mean a thing.

**Jane Hooper- Monticello-** Ms. Hooper stated that she is concerned about the new recreation complex that they are talking about building. She stated that she is overwhelmed by the magnitude of the recreation complex that is being discussed. She stated that over the last 15 years she have been to many recreation departments and have not seen any of this magnitude. She stated that you also find out over the years how much money and many people it takes to run a complex of this size. You have to have tournaments almost every weekend just to maintain the ballfields. She stated that she would like to see the commissioners take baby steps on this complex. We need to get with some other counties and see what it takes to maintain this facility. She stated that in fact we

have a hard time keeping a director. She questioned how much experience the guy that we just hired has. She stated that she is not sure that Jasper County can maintain a facility of this magnitude.

**Ann McMichael- Highway 83-** Ms. McMichael stated that she had some things that she wanted to discuss but she thinks she can just discuss them with her commissioner (Commissioner Jones) at a later time.

**County Commissioner's Items:**  
**Commissioner Ledford-**

**Commissioner Stunkel-** Commissioner Stunkel asked for an update on Ms. Sarah Road and Blue Herring Road.

County Manager Mike Benton stated that he do not have an update at this time but he hopes to have one but he hopes to have something by the March meeting.

**Commissioner Jernigan-** Commissioner Jernigan asked for an update on our road plan. We have 2 years where we have not been able to do anything. We need a plan to move forward.

County Manager Mike Benton stated that we are about 60 days out from Chip Seal weather. We went over equipment and personnel. He stated that he was encouraged by some of the information they went over. The majority of the equipment has been repaired. There is still one piece of equipment that has not been repaired. We have a new mechanic in house that have some better experience. We are going to start the season with renting a broom. If we see that the rental is not the way to go we will come back with a request to purchase. The chip distributor is the only thing lacking now and Mr. Walsh has assured him that it will be fixed within 30 days. As for the road selection we will pick up where we left off. We have the first half of the season identified.

**Commissioner Jones-** None  
**Chairman Henry-** None

**Regular Agenda:**

**Business Items:**

**Item 1: Family Connection- Request for BOC to serve as Fiscal Agent for FY 2022-2023:** Ms. Targie Folds stood before the board to request that Jasper County Board of Commissioners continue the role as Fiscal Agent for Jasper County Family Connection.

Commissioner Ledford motioned to authorize Chairman Henry to sign the Fiscal Agent Designation and Acceptance Agreement for Family Connection for FY 2022- 2023. Commissioner Stunkel seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

**Item 2: 911 Authority Board Appointment:** Crystal Smallwood stood before the board to explain why she would be a good fit on the 911 Authority Board. She stated that she had a connection when 911 opened as a volunteer. She stated that she have now resigned as a dispatcher and she's been involved with other local boards. She stated that she is interested in serving because she does not recall a 911 operator being a part of the board. She feels like this will give the operators a voice.

Commissioner Henry asked if Ms. Smallwood was currently a 911 operator.

She stated that she is not.

Commissioner Ledford motioned to appoint Crystal Smallwood to Jasper County 911 Authority Board with the term ending 2-01-2026. Commissioner Stunkel seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

**Item 3: Jasper County Water & Sewer Authority Board- Formal Resolution Requesting Legislation to Reduce Board Size:** Chairman Henry stated that in last October we started moving forward with having a 5 panel board for the Water Authority. He stated that in order to do that we have a resolution that has to be signed and sent to Representative Holmes to go through legislation.

Commissioner Stunkel motioned to adopt and sign resolution formally requesting Jasper County's local delegation propose and sponsor local legislation in the General Assembly reducing the number of board members of the Jasper County Water and Sewerage Authority from its current nine board members to five board members. Commissioner Ledford seconded the motion; passed unanimously.

**Item 4: Jasper County Water and Sewer Authority- Temporary Board Appointment:** Chairman Henry stated that since we have lowered the number to 5 we still have to have a quorum. Mark Walton is interested in the temporary appointment.

Mr. Mark Walton stood before the board. He stated that he moved here in 2003. Starting in 2006 he was appointed to the Water Authority and served until about 2013. He has served on and off since that time. He stated that now he has been asked by board members to serve in the temporary capacity for which he would be glad to serve.

Commissioner Stunkel motioned to appoint Mark Walton to Jasper County Water and Sewer Authority Board as a Temporary Board Member. Commissioner Jernigan seconded the motion; passed unanimously.

**Item 5: Clerk of Superior Court-Request ARP Funds for Scanning and Indexing Records 1960-1979:** Clerk of Courts LeAnn Airington stood before the board.

Chairman Henry stated that he was hoping that they would receive bids for the project.

Ms. Airington stated that she understood what he was saying however, the company that she initially requested the quotes from, she have a relationship with already. She stated that she already knew that they would be the cheaper option. She stated that she did not know that she was supposed to get bids so she just got quotes from another company that ended up being over \$20K more. She stated that she feels this project is necessary for the county to have this done.

Chairman Henry stated that usually if you put something out for a bid you will get the vendor's best price.

Commissioner Jernigan stated that he would like to see at least three bids.

Commissioner Stunkel stated that he have the email address of another company that contacted him recently that he could share with Ms. Airington.

Commissioner Ledford motioned to table this topic until bids can be received. Commissioner Jernigan seconded the motion; passed unanimously.

**Item 6: New Local Option Sales Tax Certificate of Distribution- Planning and Discussion:** The New Local Option Sales Tax Certification of Distribution has to happen between the county and the two cities after every Census. We have to notify the stated that we have started negotiations by July 1. Once the negotiations start we have 60 days to complete the negotiations. If we cannot come to an agreement then we will have to go to remediation.

**Item 7: New Bank Account-Sheriff's Office- Federal Asset Forfeitures:** Larissa Ruark stood before the board to request board approval to open a new bank account at Bank of Monticello for Federal Asset Forfeitures. The Jasper County Sheriff's Office is new participant of the US Department of Justice Asset

Forfeiture Equitable Sharing Program. The program requires the sheriff to have a separate bank account for deposit of all Federal forfeited assets.

Commissioner Ledford motioned to approve the Sheriff department opening a bank account at Bank of Monticello for Federal Asset Forfeitures. Commissioner Jernigan seconded the motion; passed unanimously.

**Item 8: Construction Manager at Risk Recommendation- Sheriff's Office and Jail Project:** Chairman Henry stated that he, Commissioner Stunkel, and Mike Benton met with PPI. They had three different contractors to come in and present to them. There was a lot of discussion. They came up the consensus of Barnsley Construction Group to provide the Construction Manager at Risk Services.

Commissioner Stunkel motioned to approve Barnsley Construction Group to provide Construction Manager at Risk services, as stated, for the Jasper County Sheriff's Office and Jail Project and authorize Chairman to sign forthcoming AIA document after county legal review. Commissioner Jernigan seconded the motion; passed unanimously.

**Item 9: Revision to County Code of Ordinances- SAFEBuilt Proposal: Removed**

**Item 10: FY 2022 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Financial Report:** The new Chief Accounting Officer Larissa Ruark stood before the board to present the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Financial Report.

	Budget	Actual
TOTAL GENERAL FUND REVENUE	\$ 11,870,614	\$ 9,092,691
TOTAL GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES	\$ 12,038,246	\$ 5,525,840

**Item 13: Schedule Work Sessions and Called Meetings as Needed:** A Work Session will be possibly scheduled for February 24<sup>th</sup> or 28<sup>th</sup> for Recreation Planning and Safebuilt proposal. Mr. Benton stated that we are working on the budget calendar.

**County Attorney Items: None**

**County Manager Update:** We have received 42 applications for the Planning and Zoning Director position. Most of them are not in the state. We narrowed it down to six to interview.

**Executive Session:**

Commissioner Ledford motioned to go into Executive Session for personnel at 6:45 p.m. Commissioner Stunkel seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Commissioner Ledford motioned to exit Executive Session at 7:43 p.m. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

**Adjourn:**

Commissioner Stunkel motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:43 p.m. Commissioner Ledford seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

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Bruce Henry, Chairman

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Sharon Robinson, Clerk