



# JACKSON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

(850) 482-9633 [www.jacksoncountyfl.gov](http://www.jacksoncountyfl.gov) 2864 Madison St. Marianna, FL. 32446

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Dylan Bass / Public Communications Officer  
(850) 573-1327  
bassd@jacksoncountyfl.gov  
August 22, 2023

## Jackson County BOCC Regular Meeting Highlights

*Jackson County, FL. – On Aug. 22, 2023, at 6:00 PM, the Jackson County Board of County Commissioners held a Regular Meeting. This is a recap of some of the reports and requests included in that meeting.*

---

### **REQUEST: Approval to Set a Public Hearing / Tranquility at Hope School Phase II**

Senior Planner with Community Development, Amber Barnes, made a request to Set a Public Hearing for September 12, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. for a General Development Order for Phase II of Tranquility at Hope School consisting of 2 two-story apartment buildings with vehicular use area, playground and pavilion totaling 56,270 square feet of impervious area. This project is located at 1999 Hope School Drive in unincorporated Jackson County. In alignment with the pillars outlined in the County's Strategic Plan, this project corresponds to the "Vibrant & Growing Economy" goal.



### **REQUEST: Appointment of Two County Commissioners to the Value Adjustment Board**

A request was made for Two County Commissioners will serve on the VAB, with one of the two being elected to serve as Chairman. VAB meetings are scheduled for October 2, 2023, at 9:00 AM for VAB training and October 16th and 17th at 9:00 AM for VAB hearings. D5 Commissioner, Jim Peacock will serve as Chair, along with D2 Commissioner, Edward Crutchfield.

The active participation of County Commissioners on various boards within the county, like the Value Adjustment Board, exemplifies a commitment to holistic governance. Such involvement ensures that the perspectives and expertise of our commissioners are woven into diverse facets of county operations. By serving on these boards, commissioners gain a comprehensive understanding of community needs and intricacies, enabling more informed decision-making and fostering a cohesive approach to the county's growth and well-being.



CONTINUED 

**REQUEST: Board Adoption of Local Option Fuel Tax Ordinance**

With a vision to foster Jackson County's sustainable growth and infrastructure, the Board of County Commissioners has adopted a focused five-cent Local Option Motor Fuels Tax, set to be effective from January 1, 2024, as outlined under Florida Statutes Section 336.025(1)(b).

This decision is the result of thorough discussions, assessments, and consultations. In a meticulous approach to understand the financial landscape and chart out the future for Jackson County, the Board engaged PFM Financial Advisors for a comprehensive financial study and collaborated with VisionFirst Advisors to craft a robust Strategic Plan. Key findings from these studies highlighted Jackson County's position with the lowest imposed tax revenue in relation to comparative counties. Adopting an additional Fuel Tax was highly recommended by both firms.

The funds garnered from this tax will directly aid the Road & Bridge Department in becoming more self-sufficient, in turn alleviating the fiscal strain on the County's General Fund. Understanding the concerns surrounding any tax adjustment, the County also understands the community's desire for quality services. Adjusting fuel tax is one of the most effective avenues to generate the revenue needed to provide improved services. Additionally, it should be noted that the fuel tax is a user tax, meaning it is not like homeowner or property taxes that are only applied to property owners. Instead, it is applied to whoever (local or visitor) purchases fuel in the County.

This tax initiative resonates with the Board's commitment to its Strategic Plan, particularly emphasizing one of the four core pillars: "Sustainable Services & Budgeting." Through this plan, the Board aims to strengthen the community's foundation and ensure that Jackson County remains a desirable place for both current residents and future generations.

This is about planting the seeds today for a brighter, more prosperous tomorrow. The Board is taking informed and necessary steps to ensure Jackson County's trajectory towards sustainable growth and prosperity.

Jackson County stands firm in its promise to its residents – ensuring that every decision, even the challenging ones, are made with the community's best interest at heart.



**REQUEST: Board Approval of TDC Board Appointment**

The Tourist Development Council Board is a 9-member board that serves in an advisory capacity to the Jackson County Board of County Commissioners on matters related to tourism-centric promotional efforts for Jackson County. These efforts include awarding funding to local events, increasing awareness of Jackson County attractions, and contributing to the quality of life through economic development.

TDC Director, Kelsi Williams, requested Board approval to appoint Salina O’Brien to fill the current vacancy on the TDC Board. This position is open for an individual involved with the tourism industry. Ms. O’Brien owns the local Beef O’ Brady’s and is currently working to develop the former Madison Street Restaurant in Marianna. The TDC Board voted unanimously to appoint Ms. O’Brien to the open position. In alignment with the pillars outlined in the County’s Strategic Plan, this project corresponds to the “Vibrant & Growing Economy” goal.



**REQUEST: Board Approval of Endeavor Museum Board Appointments**

The Jackson Endeavor Museum Advisory Board is a 9-member Board that serves in an advisory capacity to the Jackson County Board of County Commissioners and to the Jackson County Tourist Development Council on matters related to the planning and development of the Jackson Endeavor Museum. After going through the Committee application process, the TDC Board voted to appoint the following individuals to the Museum Board: Byron Dickens, Carly Barnes, Debbie Dennis, Hunter Potts, Kallie Smith, Kenny Griffin, Kerri Eaton, Leon Kelly, and Tori Sims.

Onboarding will take place in September and the first meeting will be hosted in October. In alignment with the pillars outlined in the County’s Strategic Plan, this project corresponds to the “Vibrant & Growing Economy” goal.



**REQUEST: Board Approval to Purchase Commercial Pumper Fire Engine**

Jackson County Fire Rescue recently received two Assistance to Firefighter’s Grants from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), totaling \$902,260.00. These federal grants, distributed through the Department of Homeland Security, represent a significant investment in our community's safety.

At this meeting, Chief Charlie Brunner, requested Board approval to purchase an E-One Commercial Pumper Fire Engine from Hall-Mark RTC off Sourcewell Contract under the FEMA AFG Grant in the amount of \$565,926.24. The fire engine is expected to be completed in December 2025/January 2026, depending on supply chain and production at the plant. In alignment with the pillars outlined in the County’s Strategic Plan, this project corresponds to the “Healthy & Safe Communities” goal.



---

**REQUEST: Board Approval to Award Special Magistrate (2223-20)**

The Board recently amended Chapter 18 of the Code of Ordinances to provide for the Adoption of a Magistrate Hearing Process. This is intended to streamline and expedite the resolution of code violations. It can help to improve efficiency by relieving the burden on the traditional court system and providing a more specialized forum for addressing code enforcement issues.

At this meeting, Administrative Service Director, Sarah Sun, requested Board approval to award 2223-20 Special Magistrate. One bid was received from John McDaniel, Esq. in response to the Special Magistrate RFP. John McDaniel, Esq. proposed two different billing options for his services, options listed below:

**Option 1:** *Hourly rate of \$250 per hour. Hours would be calculated at time spent at hearing, preparing for court, reviewing and/or preparing orders.*

**Option 2:** *Work on a retainer of \$1,000 per month guaranteed. Including up to 8 hours and one court date a month.*

After consulting with the Code Enforcement, Animal Control, and Fire Marshal offices on the anticipated hours they will utilize the Special Magistrate, staff recommended awarding the contract to John McDaniel, Esq. with the second option of working with a retainer of \$1,000 per month guaranteed, including up to 8 hours and one court date a month. This office reserves the right to add an additional court date per month, on an as-needed basis, only if the 8 hours have not been exhausted for that month. The Board voted in favor of Option 2. In alignment with the pillars outlined in the County’s Strategic Plan, this project corresponds to the “Healthy & Safe Communities” goal.



**REQUEST: Board Approval of MOU / JCBOCC & Great Oaks Historical Society**

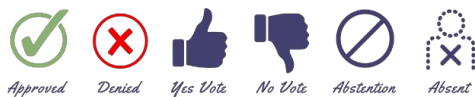
The Board approved the purchase of the Great Oaks property on June 26, 2023. In the interim, the Great Oaks Historical Society has been maintaining this property and utilities. At this meeting, Administrative Service Director, Sarah Sun, requested Board approval of a MOU with Great Oaks Historical society. This MOU allows for the reimbursement to the Great Oaks Historical Society retroactively from the date of approval to purchase until the closing and transfer of property. This MOU is for 90 days. In the event the closing takes longer, this will be addressed at that time. In alignment with the pillars outlined in the County’s Strategic Plan, this project corresponds to the “Vibrant & Growing Economy” goal.



---

###

**LEGEND:**



COMMISSIONERS

DISTRICT 1  
ALEX B. MCKINNIE

DISTRICT 2  
EDWARD CRUTCHFIELD

DISTRICT 3  
PAUL DONOFRO JR.

DISTRICT 4  
DONNIE BRANCH

DISTRICT 5  
JIM PEACOCK