

**UNOFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF  
COMMISSIONERS**

*\*Disclaimer-This document represents the "unofficial" minutes of the Jefferson County Board of Commissioners. At this point, it is a working document and does not become official until the Board approves the minutes at a subsequent meeting. It is to be used for informational purposes only.*

February 16, 2021

The Jefferson County Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday February 16, 2021. Present were Commissioners Lynn Luck, Richard Malm, David Christy and County Clerk Linda M Buttron. Counselor Josh Ney was absent.

Vouchers were reviewed and approved by the Counselor and the Board. Linda announced that the County's health insurance carrier (Blue Cross Blue Shield) has refunded \$169,000 back to the County for the 2020 plan year. Lynn moved that the minutes of February 8, 2021 be approved as presented. David seconded. All voted in favor of the motion.

Ben Domann, Public Works Director met with the Board. Ben announced the retirement of Dennis Turner, Road Grader Operator. Dennis has served for 27 years. His last day will be July 1<sup>st</sup>. Ben asked for permission to advertise for a replacement before then to facilitate training. The Board agreed by consensus. Ben reminded the Board that treatments for the road when the cold is this bad (-18 this morning) are ineffective. Ben will send crews out this afternoon to treat asphalt roads. Tomorrow road graders will be sent out on gravel roads especially east west roads. Auxiliary crews cleared parking lots and sidewalks prior to opening today. County fuel pumps are having trouble with freezing and are not always working.

Crystal VanHoutan, Health Department Administrator met with the Board. Crystal reported that the Wellness Committee has recommended that COVID 19 vaccinations be worth 5 points for the County's wellness program. She recommended that the Board consider that request. The Board agreed by consensus. Crystal asked the Board to sign documents regarding review of the Jefferson County Health Department, Home Health, Hospice and Senior Services Policies and Procedures. Lynn moved that the Board approve the documents as presented. David seconded. All voted in favor of the motion. Crystal gave a COVID update. Jefferson County has 1,590 total cases and 36 new cases in the last 10 days. For the 14 day measurement of percent positive, Jefferson County is at 5%. Lynn stated that it was good to see that the measures we have been taking are helping in the spread of COVID 19. Crystal asked the Board to continue the mandate for a little more time to get people "safe" by vaccinations, masks, social distancing and hand washing. She said we still have 1,900 people over the age of 65 to vaccinate. Lynn moved that the mandate be extended for another two weeks (March 1) to see how it's going. Richard seconded. Lynn voted in favor. Richard voted in favor David voted against. Crystal discussed ongoing vaccination efforts. We are currently receiving 300 doses of vaccine per week.

James Tweed, Emergency Services Director met with the Board. He asked the Board to approve a disaster declaration (Resolution 2021-004) declaring a disaster from the extreme cold effective from February 16 ahead 7 days unless extended. Richard moved that Resolution 2021-004 be adopted as presented. David seconded. All voted in favor of the motion. James reported that Emergency Manager Keith Jeffers is trying to keep ahead of rolling blackouts being used by electric companies to preserve electric power during this extreme cold weather. The electric companies are not currently providing maps of the areas being affected by the blackouts. A discussion regarding SPARKS funding for the City of

Meriden was held. Lee Hendricks, Meriden City Attorney was present for the discussion. There is some question about the payment of invoices and the time frame and process that was to be followed. The Board suggested that Commissioner Christy, James and Lee work out the details with Meriden City officials.

Carlene Miller, Winchester City met with the Board. Carlene discussed the mask situation. She stated that she is an example of why it is important to wear a mask to protect high risk persons. She discussed the devices that keep her alive and that she appreciates those that wear masks which help to protect her as well as others around her. She asked the Board to remember that “by wearing a mask the life you save might be yours or someone you love”. She thanked the Board for extending the mandate.

There being no further business to come before the Board they adjourned to meet in regular session on February 22, 2021.

