

**Special Jefferson County Commissioner Meeting Minutes
March 4, 2016**

Meeting called to order at 8:00. Those present are Commissioner Farnsworth, Commissioner Hancock, Chairman Raymond, HR/Emergency Management/Park & Rec. /Commissioner Assistant Rebecca Squires, Public Works Dave Walrath, Clerk Colleen Poole; Audrey Moon is clerk of the board. Pledge of Allegiance offered by Dave Walrath. Prayer offered by Chairman Raymond.

Commissioners

• **Great Feeder Retaining Wall**

[8:04:05 AM](#) Chairman Raymond compliments everyone that has been involved in this project. Appreciate all of the effort and thinks they are close to getting this project wrapped up.

[8:05:09 AM](#) Rebecca goes over some pictures of the Great Feeder and the location of where the retaining wall will be. Rebecca has a slide of pictures and they review the area. Discussed the proposal on the retaining wall. This retaining wall would tie in at around the 9 foot level and would tie into the wing walls. The retaining walls beginning height would be 9 feet and would go down to create a 4 foot barrier.

[8:06:43 AM](#) Commissioner Hancock mentioned the canal board had something similar on the drawings but they feel this retaining wall would help the county's approach. Otherwise in order to put in the approach would have to put in a slope and riprap to put the approach in. Goes over the area and the water running high. The canal board is proposing to tie into the wing wall with this retaining wall. Will not have to put barriers up because the retaining wall will be enough of a barrier. This retaining wall will satisfy the canal board. Dave mentioned this wall was already in the initial plans. Dave said the elevation of backfill matches exactly.

[8:09:20 AM](#) Commissioner Farnsworth asked if a bridge was not put in this wall would still need to be put in anyway. Commissioner Hancock said yes as well as Dave said it showed a wall in the plans but these are more of a drawing. Discuss the plans do not have quantities.

[8:10:20 AM](#) Rebecca goes over that Brian Grover and Carl Anderson had spoken that they need right up to the power pole to get their equipment through. Commissioner Hancock said the power is disconnected but may need to contact the power company and see about removal of the pole.

[8:11:05 AM](#) Chairman Raymond goes over the photo on the projector. Have two wing walls. Go over the county approach they need to be able to have the largest fire truck fit through this entrance. Go over where the power pole is located if this is removed will allow a larger approach. Go over more photos of the Great Feeder area.

[8:18:18 AM](#) Commissioner Hancock goes over some suggestions for funding this wall. Had been discussed this wall would cost \$10,000 and would want to split this cost. Commissioner Hancock said doing this will give them more radius, will not have to riprap this or install barriers.

[8:19:42 AM](#) Dave goes over the original design showed an 18 inch wall with 7 foot footing that was doweled into the existing concrete. Concerned about the connection and the overall pressure on this. Dave goes over angle of repose. Angle of repose this is for all soil types it has an angle they like to get to in order to be secure. Discuss putting geogrid inside the wall to ease the stress. This is in a compacted base and will increase the angle of repose and reduce the pressure. This wall would be there to keep water out of the fill. Grid is around \$2,000 and should probably count for their in-kind work. This is less expensive than other footing options. Commissioner Hancock asked about rebar. Dave worries with doing rebar there would be some corrosion and with the geogrid it is plastic.

[8:23:36 AM](#) Commissioner Hancock said they need to agree if they are going to fund the \$5,000 additional for the retaining wall. Has been part of some contention. Dave said this is hard to swallow since this wall is in the plans. Commissioner Hancock said they were trying to cut cost and were going to cut the wall in half. Commissioner Farnsworth said they already had a deck placed so regardless they were going to have to put in the retaining wall. Commissioner Hancock said this was going to be a shorter wall.

[8:25:36 AM](#) Rebecca brings up going away from the engineer's plans. Discuss what the original plans were. From an engineering standpoint chasing dollars sometimes will run into issues when deviating from the engineer's plans. Rebecca is unsure if they have had an honest and open discussion. Feels this has been difficult with so many different agendas. Commissioner Hancock said they have tried hard to work with the canal board. Dave said sometimes they may have tried too hard to work with the canal board.

[8:27:53 AM](#) Commissioner Farnsworth discusses some issues. Contributing more resources than was originally approved, continued participation in project and diversion of resources for projects that would be more important to a greater number of people. Rebecca said these ideas were brought forward to get them out there and for consideration.

[8:28:33 AM](#) Chairman Raymond said the original motion was made January 25. Commissioner Hancock said Stan Hawkins feels this retaining wall was agreed upon. Chairman Raymond said the \$162,500 was meant to cover all of the structure. That is all he feels

that the taxpayers should be paying and that was the intent of his motion. Chairman Raymond was not informed of any more funds being required for the retaining wall. Does understand they were going to pay for the approach to the bridge. Dave said they have begun hauling base material to the south side. Have hauled crushed material and bentonite.

[8:31:14 AM](#) Chairman Raymond goes back on the discussion this project has primary beneficiaries and secondary beneficiaries. The only interest as a board of commissioners is public access and safety. Commissioner Hancock mentioned on the approach has been assured the largest firetruck can fit through this area. Chairman Raymond asked how this proposal on the retaining wall enhances or detracts from the public access. Commissioner Hancock said the benefit would give them a wider radius. Also would not have to put other barriers up. Dave said the retaining wall would be higher and would redirect traffic away from the river. Would not have to pay for riprap. Commissioner Hancock feels their cost of guardrails and other items would probably exceed \$5,000. Riprapping would take up their maintenance deck. Commissioner Hancock said the costs would be more to riprap and put up barriers. Go over the original plan. Dave said feels frustration since the plans do not have quantities and have been changed as they've wanted. Chairman Raymond discussed if they are obligated to produce more funds. They have already been before the public so how do they add funds. Commissioner Hancock said the canal board is hitting them as this is part of the approach.

[8:38:43 AM](#) Commissioner Farnsworth mentioned this retaining wall was in the plans. Chairman Raymond said that on January 25 the motion for the original participation was \$150,000 level. Had more discussion on the heating aspect and the canal board had wanted \$175,000. Decided to meet in the middle at \$162,500. Discuss about heating the concrete. The bridge is getting close to completion.

[8:42:38 AM](#) Chairman Raymond said they need to discuss options. Commissioner Hancock said he has had some contentious meetings up at the Feeder. Several board members have contacted him and just want to get this completed. Rebecca goes over changing the wall and putting in the geogrid. May suggest the Feeder build the wall how they want it, then as part of the in-kind work would put in the geogrid to stabilize the wall.

[8:45:07 AM](#) Commissioner Hancock had been adamant that the Feeder cover the cost of the retaining wall. Last time they had met had made the effort to try and make this better for the public with the radius of the approach. Commissioner Hancock said knowing what it does buy us is not sure the total would be \$5,000. Had gotten them down to \$3,000 but the price kept changing. Dave goes over some of the estimated costs. These estimates do not include the geogrid. Rebecca asked if there is cash to contribute. Have already taken \$62,500 out of contingency and \$100,000 out of two lines from Road & Bridge. Colleen discussed that the funds could not be taken out of the contingency without another public hearing to discuss spending the additional \$5,000.

[8:48:18 AM](#) Commissioner Farnsworth said the retaining wall is on the plans this is not a hidden cost. Is this their way of obtaining the deck for free? Discuss problems with this proposal.

[8:48:58 AM](#) Chairman Raymond said they have very little control on how the Feeder has changed the plans. Discuss the in-kind work from Road & Bridge. Discussed where the funding would be taken for the retaining wall. If taking this out of the Road & Bridge budget from the bridge line \$5,000 is not a lot in the big picture. That is until they come back for something else. Discuss cost of doing the guardrails and other work would possibly cost the \$5,000 anyway. Will have to have a sealing amount of up to \$5,000 and no more.

[8:53:56 AM](#) Commissioner Farnsworth feels they are being played and he does not like it. Feels they are being squeezed after they have bent over backwards on this issue. Discuss the process Commissioner Hancock has been through.

[8:55:50 AM](#) Chairman Raymond asked if they are jumping ahead do they need to look at the MOU before making a decision on this retaining wall. Commissioner Hancock believes they need to make a decision on the retaining wall before moving forward to the MOU.

[8:56:51 AM](#) Will have to call Attorney Robin Dunn to discuss the MOU.

[8:57:09 AM](#) **Motion by Commissioner Hancock to participate in funding the retaining wall up to \$5,000 with no more additional cost. Will also install the geogrid in which will count as part of the county's in-kind work contribution. Second by Commissioner Farnsworth. Open discussion. Commissioner Farnsworth wanted to mention that this is as far as he is willing to go and if they breathe one more negative word he will back out and go toward a validation hearing. Does not want to hear any more negative comments. Commissioner Farnsworth feels they have worked with the board as best as they can. Roll call taken. Commissioner Farnsworth – aye, Commissioner Hancock – aye, Chairman Raymond – aye. Motion passed.**

[8:58:56 AM](#) Chairman Raymond comments that they support this retaining wall only because there may be an increased cost to provide what is needed to be safe for the public if the retaining wall is not there.

- **Great Feeder MOU**

[9:00:12 AM](#) Commissioners go over the MOU. This document was originally drafted by Attorney Robin Dunn and now has been modified by the Great Feeder Board. Commissioners will be looking at the original as well as the modified document. Have scanned a copy of the Great Feeder's changes to the Attorney to review. Are currently reviewing the documents.

[9:10:09 AM](#) Dave goes over the liability section in the MOU which says that the county will assume all liabilities for the bridge structure as well as other areas. Not sure on the wording there may need to clarify this. Chairman Raymond said they will not be able

to make a decision on this MOU today. They are going to have to sit down and really look through this document. Also need to have their attorney review this MOU thoroughly.

[9:18:38 AM](#) Motion by Chairman Raymond to table the Great Feeder MOU until the March 14 meeting or until this has been reviewed by themselves as well as their Attorney. Second by Commissioner Farnsworth. All in favor – aye. Motion passed.

[9:19:14 AM](#) Motion to by Commissioner Farnsworth to adjourn at 9:19. Second by Commissioner Hancock. All in favor – aye. Motion passed.

Chairman of the Board

Date

Clerk of the Board

Date

County Clerk

Date

