

Jennings County Commissioner Meeting

~~Government Annex Building, Commissioner Meeting Room~~

March 12, 2020 6:30 pm

All members were present.

The meeting opened with Matt Sporleder leading the Pledge of Allegiance.

Nicci Lucas, HR, reported the Health Department would like permission to apply for the Public Health Preparedness Grant. They have applied for this grant in the past. Bob Willhite made the motion to support the Health Department in the grant. Dave Lane seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Nicci also has noted that there were some travel requests but the state has cancelled those meetings.

She then reported on the time keeping system. She has presented the time keeping system to the Council. She has found a company called Kronos that fits the county's needs the best. They are headquartered in Massachusetts and all of the work will be done remotely. There is a service center in Indianapolis that, if needed, they will come from there. The quote is based on 200 employees and we will be billed based on the number of people in the system at any given month. In the winter when we don't have seasonal workers that amount could drop. The system is cloud based and will not tax our server. The employees will access this by an app that is placed on their computer screen and they will open the app, clock in or out and then close out of it. They will have the capability of seeing this from home to see days off, vacation, etc. They will not have access to clock in and out from home though. There is a capability that they could clock in remotely via cell phone although that is not for most employees. The county has the ability to set those rules up. Ellie has reviewed the contract. The only concern she had was, as it relates to travel expenses. They have assured Nicci that all of the implementation will be done remotely. Training will be done via Webinars and conference calls. IT has reviewed the technical components of this and since nothing is hosted on the local server they are ok with this. Employees need to be mindful that the app cannot be left open all day. If it was left open, this will slow things down considerably. This will be part of the training. The system will integrate with the current payroll service. They already work with Low. They will customize this so that each department head will authorize and confirm hours worked for that time period, they will send that to the Auditor's Office to payroll and then the payroll person simply uploads the file. There is no manual entry into that system. New employees will still have to be added into the system. As SBOA makes changes there can be a Change Order entered and they make the changes for us. Eventually this should definitely cut back on the time spent doing payroll. There is a 1 time set-up fee of \$2,000.00. This allows us to build the export and import to payroll, set up the permissions and the training. The monthly cost is estimated at \$784.00, which this is based on the number of employees in the system and this could change. Council voted to approve this system on Tuesday. She is asking for the Commissioners to vote on this and sign the order so she can go on to the next step. Matt asked about

County Commissioner

March 12, 2020

Page 2

employees that don't have a computer (housekeeping, Recycle Center, etc). Nicci said she spoke with IT and there are some old desk top computers that could be set up for housekeeping. There is a question on how the Recycle Center would do this. She said there are some options and Kronos is working with her to figure that out. She is confident they will come up with something. An option may be to get rid of their landline and give them a county cell phone. You cannot ask an employee to put it on their personal cell phone. If one of the highway employees were to be called out during the night, their supervisor could go in and adjust their time to show this. Bob Willhite made the motion to accept the new time keeping system and sign the appropriate paperwork. Dave Lane seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Dan Norris was there with issues about the Campbell Township Sewer District. They have started sending him bills again and have now put a lien on his property. He has presented the county attorney with paperwork that showed the previous county attorney, Mike Rogers, sent a letter to Kevin Stark, the health dept inspector at that time, saying that he didn't have to tie on. He then no longer received any sewer bills since approximately 2009 until October 2019 and they now say he owes \$3400.00. In January 2020 they put a lien on his property. He said the Commissioners appoint the board but wants to know who holds the board accountable. Ellie explained IC1326-5-2 outlines the powers of the regional water, sewage and solid waste districts. The first thing is sue or be sued. That tells her that the courts oversee the sewer board. If there is a dispute then they can sue or be sued. She said if Dan has a dispute with the sewer board then more than likely that is how it's going to have to play out, in the court system. He asked Ellie if she was saying someone who already can't pay their bills needs to hire an attorney and sue someone that is sending fraudulent bills? He asked if he wins this suit who will pay his fees for what he is out for an attorney. She said that would be up to the judge. Dan said there is an IC1326-6-4 that says the department determines that if the project or operation of the district is not economically feasible, fair or reasonable, it should be dissolved. Dan said his property has no home on it, what is he suppose to tie into? Ellie said the Commissioners have no authority over the sewer board, he needs to take it up with the sewer board and if it can't be resolved then it needs to go through the court system.

There were 2 people from the sewer board and one of them showed a letter from 2007, from their attorney, stating how you can get billed even when you're not hooked up to the system. Ellie looked at the letter. She again said this is a dispute that needs to be handled with the sewer board or in court. Ellie said this is not a Commissioner's issue.

Marie Shepherd, Area Plan, presented a rezone request for Larry Perry. This property is located at 3305 N Washington Street in Butlerville. It is currently zoned residential, he would like for it to be rezoned to Commercial Planned Business. She said it has been that way since 1969, this was just one of the zonings that was out there and really wasn't in compliance. The property has been sold and they would like to

County Commissioner

March 12, 2020

Page 3

bring it into compliance. It has no water or sewer. It is just basically used for a storage unit. Neighbor notices were mailed out and no opposition. Essential Services and Area Plan heard it and no opposition there. There are no further recommendations or additions. Matt asked if anyone in the audience wanted to voice opposition, none spoke. Bob Willhite made the motion to approve the rezoning request. Dave Lane seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Elizabeth Sullivan from the Prosecutor's Office was there as the new Victim Advocate and she wanted an approval for them to apply for the Victims of Crime Act Grant that pays 80% of her pay and the match of 20% comes out of the Ticket Deferral Program. Tessia said this is done every year. Bob Willhite made the motion to allow this. Dave Lane seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Jason Bliton from the Sheriff's Office was asking for approval on the contract to get new tasers. This is a 4 year deal with very little cost to the taxpayer. He gets a grant for \$10,000.00/year that would go to this. It is a 5 year plan so everything doesn't have to be paid outright. It is cheaper to do it this way, the total cost is about \$47,500.00. The tasers are obsolete as of this year. This will approve tasers for the jail staff also. The old tasers that can still be used will go into the jail. Bob Willhite made the motion to approve the contract. Dave Lane seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Sheriff Freeman discussed needing to get bids for the heat/air. The decision was made to accept bids for the cooling tower; 14 of the 26 heat pumps that need replaced this year and an assessment of the other 12; bid for 2 boilers; 2 circulation pumps. Matt brought up the fact that the Council has been in touch with Johnson Mellow to put together a plan of everything that needs to be replaced/refurbished and they almost have that done. Geothermal and solar panels are discussed. Matt said the geothermal system they are proposing does the heat/cool but does away with the cooling tower. This system should last 30 years. It will also lower your water bill to about ¼ of what it currently is now. Sheriff Freeman said bids need to be taken now because if a cooling tower is the way they are going to go it needs to be ordered now as it takes 8 weeks to get in and then another week to be installed. It will be summertime before it gets done. The bids need to come from a company that handles industrial, not a residential heating/cooling. Matt said there is a legal way to start the bid process. Matt said he will get with FPBH they could guide him for writing up an RFP.

He then reported on the upgrades to the book-in area that will cost \$19,000.00. Ellie asked if the changes have been ran by the jail inspector. Sheriff Freeman said this doesn't have to do with the jail inspector, this is about officer safety. He said as long as it is within the law the jail inspector will approve

County Commissioner

March 12, 2020

Page 4

whatever the sheriff wants to do. As long as there's no issue with safety, fire, health and security they can do whatever they want.

He also presented RhinoShield that is a process for the kitchen floors and walls. This has a 15 year warranty for a cost of \$37,000.00. Matt asked about meal prep during this time. It would take approximately 3 days and they would have to cater out meals during this time. The jail is only required to have 1 hot meal per day. They said they don't feel this is an issue; sack lunches or a cook out could be done. They also got a quote on the shower and bathroom areas for \$19,200.00. The total of the book-in area, kitchen and showers is \$75,200.00. Bob made the motion to approve the upgrade of the book-in area and RhinoShield the kitchen and showers for \$75,200.00 as long as the Council approves it. Dave seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Their next item was asking about Ordinances that were previously passed, it said not to exceed \$2,500.00 on fines but Ellie said they could establish what those are. How do the commissioners want to approach that? Ellie said the noise ordinance refers to the penalty section of the code. They want to know how much for the first offense, how much for the second offense, etc. Matt would like for the Sheriff's office to give them a proposal at the next meeting and they will see if they agree. All agreed.

Randy Shepherd spoke about the Fair. Go Karts run March-September (not part of the fair). They will start March 20 this year and it will be Friday and Saturday nights both. The man who runs the Go Karts wants to put a tire protector on the concrete wall on the front stretch. This would be at his own expense. Columbus installed this after a child was injured there. This can be taken off when needed. Bob Willhite made the motion to allow the tire protector be put on the concrete wall. It was stated that if they use tires like that they would need to apply for a Beneficial Reuse Permit from IDEM to be able to use those tires. Dave seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Randy also reported that the man that does the trash all week at the fair shows up a week before the fair to make sure all the buildings are cleaned out, check that the restrooms are ready to go and the grounds are picked up and ready. He is there every day of the fair and he is there the following week through Wednesday, basically 2 ½ weeks at the fair. The Fair Board hires him but he has come up with some things that he would like to see happen at the fair. First, he would like to rekey the toilet paper holders as they currently have 3 different keys in the different buildings. Secondly, between Building 3 and the Wildlife Building on the north end there is no lighting. This is a safety issue as it is very dark there. Thirdly, on the track in turns 3 and 4 the track is dark. Last year Jerry Shepherd brought in portable lighting from EMA. He said he can do this again this year but with them using the track 2 nights there is a chance he would have to pull them out if the County needs them for something. It then becomes a safety issue for the drivers on the track. Matt said he would prefer to keep doing it as done previously for now as there is discussion on redoing the entire infield in the future. Randy said they were planning on spending \$4,000.00 on speakers for the infield which would include burrowing under

County Commissioner

March 12, 2020

Page 5

the track for the wiring. Matt said to put it in conduit so the wiring could be pulled out if needed and reused. The Fair Board put almost \$5,000.00 in speakers last year at the Fair Grounds he was hoping the Commissioners would pay the \$4,000.00 this year. Matt said with the military not coming this year that means \$35,000.00 less. We did get \$7,500.00 for parking trailers there but still suffered quite a loss. It is a non-reverting account at the Fair Grounds so what is in there is all they get. Matt said it keeps going backwards each year. Randy asked about the rental on the buildings helping, Matt said the utilities eat up the rental. Matt said he needs to look at a fund report before committing to the speakers.

Matt asked Randy what they are doing with the horse arena. Randy said he would like to move it. The horses are too close to the track and he has been told by the horse group that this move would be enough that they could have their shows in the evening.

He said they have a complete set of plans to start the drainage package. It starts at the school, it's \$3,300.00 to start the project. This is needed desperately. The new bathroom is under water if it rains. He believes the Fair Board will cover the \$3,300.00.

Also he asked about the road coming in by the Recycle Center to the back side of the track, he would like to use that for the participants for the track events. Matt said he didn't think that would be a problem. That way the participants wouldn't be entering by the barns. Matt will talk to Jim Reeves about this.

Matt said he checked the balance and he said the Commissioners could afford to do 1 project. Bob Willhite made the motion to allow the \$4,000.00 speaker project for the fairboard. Dave Lane seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Matt said there was 1 bid for the car that was advertised. Matthew Ritchie put in a bid. The paperwork was unclear if it was \$2.20 or \$2,200.00. Matt said they need to call him and clarify this. Bob Willhite made the motion to accept if it is \$2,200.00. Dave seconded. Motion passed unanimously. This will go into County General.

There are 2 quotes for the Recycle Center camera, one for \$2,480.00 and one for \$9,514.00. Commissioners reviewed both of these estimates. Bob made the motion to accept the \$2,480.00 quote. Dave seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

Decatur County REMC is wanting a letter of support for broad band. This was just done for Jackson County about 1 month ago. This is for Jennings County residents. Bob made the motion to support this. Dave seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

County Commissioner

March 12, 2020

Page 6

Low Server is needing to be replaced. Tessia spoke to Eagle Pointe Technology and the cost is \$6,340.52 for a new server. Bob made the motion to replace the server. Dave seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

The Veterans office is needing a credit card with a limit of \$1,000.00. Matt asked what this would be used for. Nicci said this would mainly be for office supplies. Bob made the motion to approve the credit card with \$1,000.00 limit. Dave seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Bob made the motion to approve the prior minutes. Dave seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Bob made the motion to sign payroll and claims. Dave seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Bob made the motion to adjourn. Dave seconded. Motion passed unanimously.



Tessia Salsman, Auditor



Matt Sporleder, President



Bob Willhite, Vice-President



David Lane