

JENNINGS COUNTY COMMISSIONER MEETING

AUGUST 23, 2018 6:30 P.M.

The meeting opened with Matt Sporleder leading the pledge to the flag.

Nicci Lucas, HR Director, was the first to address the Commissioners concerning the updates that were discussed at the last meeting. Section 4 (G) table was changed that shows Government Offices as an 8 hour work day and also paragraph 4 in the same Section of 4 (G) pertaining to vacation time. For example if they were hired on 3/1/2016; vacation time would not start until September 1, 2016 and at that time they would have 13 hours and 20 minutes of vacation time to use before December 31, 2016. Then on January 1, 2017 this employee would have 40 hours of vacation time for 2017 and then in 2018 would have 80 hours of vacation time.

Section 4 (I) table pertaining to Sick Leave Benefits the Government Offices were added to the 8 hour work day 40 hour week schedule.

Section 5 (AA) pertaining to Political Activity was changed to read "County employees shall not use either their County position or time to assist in political campaigns. This includes time during the lunch period. No employee that is paid either wholly or partially from Federal funds is eligible to run for office in a partisan election."

Section 5 (L) pertains to Use of Equipment and Vehicles and Mrs. Lucas was recommending changing the current paragraph 7 concerning submitting to a blood draw. Also Section 5 (S) paragraph 3 pertaining to Drug testing.

After much discussion on all the changes, Bob Willhite made a motion to accept the upgrades for Section 4 (G), Section 4 (I) and Section 5 (AA) but to wait on Section 5 (L) and (S). Dave Lane seconded the motion and Matt Sporleder made it unanimous. Motion passed.

Next Mrs. Lucas stated that she had been talking with Shepherd Insurance about bidding out the health insurance and indications are that United Health has been impressed with the county and the amount of claims this year versus the last 3 years and there could be a lowering of the rate coming and if the county were to bid the insurance out; the rate could go up. Mrs. Lucas recommended waiting and not bidding the health insurance out this year.

Bob Willhite made a motion to delay bidding out the health insurance if rate comes in less or stays the same. Dave Lane seconded the motion and Matt Sporleder made it unanimous. Motion passed.

Next Chuck Davis representing the JC Riders 4-H Club concerning the horse arena at the Jennings County fairgrounds; Mr. Davis stated that he had talked with the Fair Board and the 4-H Livestock committee about his plan and they were all for it but told him he had to talk to the Commissioners. Mr. Davis would like to move the arena as there has been a couple issues that have created problems over the years. The arena is very close to the racetrack, so they cannot have a horse event at the same time as a motorized grandstand event. This limits the dates and times we are able to schedule events during the fair. We do not want to ask the fair board to block out dates for grandstand events, because those can generate income for the fair. The current arena is also prone to flooding when there is any rain and does not drain quickly. It can take up to 3 days for the arena to dry enough to be usable after any significant rainfall.

The proposal Mr. Davis brings to the Commissioners to consider is building a new arena on the north side of the horse barn. This location would be far enough away from the racetrack that they would not interfere with any grandstand event scheduling. The plan is to get enough fill material to build the new arena higher than the surrounding area and slope it to drain which would also solve our drainage issues. They would like to build the main arena 130 ft wide and 240 foot long and also include a warm up area attached to the barn so the horses can remain fenced in the entire time they are competing. Mr. Davis estimates that it will take 3,000 tons of fill material to build the arena to the needed height. He explained that they will re-use as much of the existing arena's material as possible. The announcer's stand can be moved and most of the fence and posts can be re-used as well. They will also scrape the top layer of sand from the old arena and move it to the new location. This arena could also open up new opportunities for other events to be held throughout the year and not just during the fair. Mr. Davis stated that they have applied for a grant and they are asking local businesses for assistance and donations for this project. Club members and their families will be supply much of the labor. Mr. Davis concluded with stating that the current arena is like a tub full of sand.

Commissioner Sporleder stated he did not believe this proposal would work because it would take a lot of parking away and it would be next to the cattle barn which would make unloading those animals to the barn a longer route. Mr. Davis stated he had thought of that but the 4-H Livestock Committee did not have any objections to the location. Mr. Davis stated that maybe he could swing it around so it would take less space away from the parking situation. Mr. Sporleder stated he thinks remodeling and rebuilding the current arena would be a better solution. Mr. Davis said with it being so close to the grandstand events; they would not be able to schedule any evening events and the kids like to show their horses during the fair and be a part of the fair experience.

After further discussion and looking at the location, the Commissioners said they would get with Jim Reeves, Highway Superintendent, and see if something could be done to do a new arena that would be acceptable to everyone.

Bob Willhite made a motion to table the moving of the horse arena until next meeting. Dave Lane seconded the motion and Matt Sporleder made it unanimous. Motion passed.

Next Ellie Bright, County Attorney, presented a Resolution for the Commissioners signatures approving the jail project. The Resolution states that the Commissioners hereby approves the construction of a new jail facility on certain real estate located at North County road 175 East, North Vernon with a total construction costs not to exceed \$28 million dollars, plus capitalized interest, financing costs and any other incidental expenses.

Bob Willhite made a motion in support of the construction of the jail up to \$28 million and to sign the Resolution. Dave Lane seconded the motion and Matt Sporleder made it unanimous. Motion passed.

Next Auditor Vance had a request from Dan Wright, Mayor of Vernon, to use the Courthouse lawn for the upcoming Labor Day Festival September 2nd and 3rd. The Mayor also stated that they might need to use it on Saturday afternoon as well for setup.

Bob Willhite made the motion to allow the usage of the courthouse lawn for the Vernon Labor Day Festival for the mentioned times. Dave Lane seconded the motion and Matt Sporleder made it unanimous. Motion passed.

Matt Sporleder brought up the possibility of purchasing a bucket truck for the county highway. He said that it was in really good condition and he thought it would be beneficial in helping with the Ash tree problem and that Greg Wilds could use it for maintenance issues. The purchase price is \$22,855 and Jim Reeves was recommending the purchase. Bob Willhite had concerns that it would not be used enough to justify the purchase and would sit around like other equipment that had been purchased but not used that much.

Bob Willhite made a motion to table the purchase of the bucket truck until the next meeting. Dave Lane seconded the motion and Matt Sporleder made it unanimous. Motion passed.

Next Auditor Vance read a letter from Britt Burgmeier, 911 Director stating that Jason Littrell had resigned and he was requesting permission to fill that vacancy. The position is already budgeted and would cause no negative impact on the budget.

Bob Willhite made a motion to allow 911 to fill the vacancy; Dave Lane seconded the motion and Matt Sporleder made it unanimous. Motion passed.

Next Commissioners opened the bids received for the furniture in the basement.

Bob Willhite made a motion to sign claims and payroll; Dave Lane seconded the motion and Matt Sporleder made it unanimous. Motion passed.

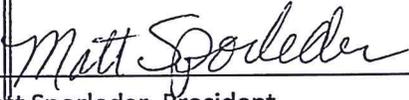
Sporleder asked if Westport Fire Department received any monies and Auditor Vance replied yes, \$8,000 and Dupont Fire Department received \$4,000.

With no further business, Bob Willhite made a motion to adjourn; Dave Lane seconded the motion and Matt Sporleder made it unanimous.

Attest:



Kay Sue Vance, Auditor



Matt Sporleder, President



Robert Willhite



David Lane

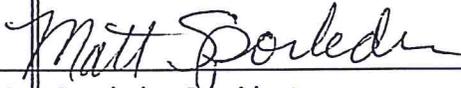
Bob Willhite made a motion to approve prior minutes; Dave Lane seconded the motion and Matt Sporleder made it unanimous. Motion passed.

With no further business, Bob Willhite made a motion of adjourn; Dave Lane seconded the motion and Matt Sporleder made it unanimous. Motion passed.

Attest:



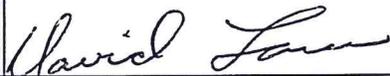
Kay Sue Vance, Auditor



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David Lane