

Jennings County Commissioner Meeting  
Government Annex Building, Commissioners Meeting Room  
Jun 25, 2020 6:30 pm

All Commissioners were present.

Matt Sporleder led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Sue Lamborn from Thrive Alliance was requesting \$12,000.00 for next year from the county. The county gave them \$7,500.00 last year. She said they have been doing a lot of meal deliveries with the Covid 19. Matt said that he recommends this be taken under advisement for right now as budgets will be tight this year. Bob Willhite made the motion to table this and revisit later. Dave Lane seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Ellie Bright said a vote was needed on the 2 items that were discussed in the executive session. Matt asked all in favor to support and hand out the 2 letters that was discussed. Bob made a motion to approve the letters. Dave seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Jim Reeves from the Highway Dept brought up the speed limit ordinance for 975 N-1000 N between 200 E and 740 E. This is the second reading. Bob made the motion to approve the ordinance. Dave seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Ellie brought up an ordinance that was talked about at the last meeting, requiring culverts to be completed prior to Area Plan issuing a sign-off. She asked Jim if he agreed with it and he said yes. Bob made the motion for this to be the first reading. Dave seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Jim has the contracts for O'Mara for community crossing paving. Bob made the motion to sign the contract. Dave seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

USI gave an agreement to give an idea what can be done to preserve Bridge 29, an iron bridge. The agreement is not to exceed \$10,000.00. Hopefully they can come up with something to do in-house. The county just spent over \$200,000.00 2 years ago on it. The engineers were USI on that. Bob made the motion to sign USI agreement. Dave seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Jim gave the Commissioners a copy of the budget to review, this is due June 30.

The Adult Education has requested use of the Community Building July 18 at no charge for their graduation. Bob made the motion to allow. Dave seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Kiwanis would like to use the show arena for a fund raiser, a cow pie bingo, on August 1 at no charge. Bob made the motion to allow. Dave seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Matt still needed to sign the bid acceptance on the liquid asphalt from last meeting.

Nicci Lucas, HR, reported that there are 3 openings at the Highway Dept. She would like to ask for permission to advertise to hire for those positions. They are already funded positions. Bob made the motion to allow. Dave seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Nicci also reported there is a part time position at the Recycling Center. Bob made the motion to allow.

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Dave seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

There is also an opening in the Health Department and she would like to advertise for that position. Bob made the motion to approve. Dave seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Dave Turner from the Sheriff's Office reported that the Council approved the funding of the floor shield coating for the showers, kitchen and book-in area. The company has requested a down payment of \$13,980.00 and that will be taken out of Commissary since the Council has agreed to reimburse the full amount of \$55,920.00. The down payment is for chemicals and supplies. Matt was concerned about a company asking for that much up front. Bob made the motion to allow. Dave seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Dave said one of their full time deputies resigned. They would like permission to fill it temporarily with a part-time person until they can get someone else hired. This will be at a lesser rate than the deputy that retired. Bob made the motion to allow this. Dave seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

He also brought up the amended ordinance which adds to #10 penalties that was not in there before and in #11 the enforcement paragraph pertaining to Health and Safety issue. This is considered the first reading and not adoptable until after 2<sup>nd</sup> reading.

Kitty Shepherd, Treasurer, reported that the tax sale is temporarily scheduled for September 5. Previously it was asked if there were any provisions coming from the state that would allow the county not to have the tax sale. She contacted Lori Rogers, SBOA, and Lori said if the Commissioners would decide not to have the tax sale the Auditors would not take exception to it as long as there was a policy in place. Kitty would like to send a letter to the first time tax sale eligible taxpayers letting them know they are eligible for the sale to try and generate some payments that way. There is money in the budget for that postage. 2019 Tax Sale results were gone over. If there was a tax sale it would have to be at the Community Building and Social Distancing would need to be observed. Ellie asked if Kitty thought the county would get assistance from the state on this. Kitty wants to check into the Grant that is being given to see if this could be added into it. Kitty said that ultimately the Tax Sale is the Auditor's duty. People being laid off and not having the money to spend at the tax sale is discussed. Bob said he would like to cancel it. Dave said he is for having it. Matt recommends cancelling it as he feels there won't be the bidders this year and moving it to another location is going to create an issue. There will be no tax sale this year.

Mary Kilgore, reported that on Tuesday Attorney Chris Monroe who was assigned to the Danny Pohle case when Mary was sued as Clerk, called her and there had been a hearing set for Friday. Danny sent a summons to Ellie and she had another hearing at the same time so she was unable to go. Chris wanted Mary to ask the Commissioners if they want him to continue to follow-up on this. Matt asked what the amount of legal fees that the county is going after Mr. Pohle for. It is more than \$5,000.00 but less than \$10,000.00 but closer to \$10,000.00. Ellie's fee wouldn't be more than \$500.00-\$600.00. Matt asked

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Ellie and Mary their opinions. Mary said both cases Mr. Pohle filed against her were dismissed. Ellie said she feels it will be a "never ending" lawsuit. Ellie said since she has been subpoenaed in this case she can't and she has no authority over finances in the county, she can't give a recommendation. She did, however give the Commissioners the different scenarios that could take place. The next hearing is set for July 24. Bob made the motion to pursue the legal fees. Dave seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Kurt Schneider said this is information only. He is giving an update on the utility bills. He said in 2001 the amount of consumption of energy that was used was around \$33,000.00, in 2015 the same amount of energy used was \$61,190.00. He said Duke Energy is asking for a stipend for COVID 19 and another 15.6% escalation. He said 3 years ago when we started energy efficiency together it was talked about reducing energy as much as possible because the escalations were so high. He presented spread sheets showing the changes in the different departments since beginning. He then spoke of the heating/air at the jail and said Bank of America is willing to do a 16.5 year loan at 2.35%. He said the county could finance the total heating/ventilation/air conditioning system at jail, do all the solar. The savings a year would be \$107,000.00 and then there is grant that would give a total savings over 20 years is \$790,000.00. There is no debt to the taxpayer, lowest interest rate ever. Matt asked what the JMS Grant is. He said it was a financing capability and explained in depth. Kurt said he is going to present this information to the Jail Committee at their next meeting.

Centerstone has a letter of support to improve their TeleMedicine Services. Bob made the motion to allow Matt to sign it. Dave seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

There were 2 bids for the Veterans car. Matt opened one and Bob opened one. This is for a 2005 Chevy Uplander with 209,415 miles. Jim Bird had a bid of \$450.00 and Matthew Ritchie had a bid of \$220.00. Bob made the motion to allow Tessia to contact Jim Bird and have him bring a cashier's check or money order for \$450.00 then the title will be signed over to him. Dave seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Covered bridge certification was brought up. It certifies that there are 2 covered bridges in Jennings County. Bob made a motion to sign the certification. Dave seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

There is an opening on the library board. Mary Hoagland, Library Director, is recommending Mike Biehle, Jason Sanders, Randy Ochs, Trisha Losey or Pat Rice to fill the opening. The Board has not discussed the open position with these candidates. Dave made the motion to appoint Trisha Losey. Bob seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

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Quotes for some work to be done at the courthouse. First off was the tile area when entering the courthouse. There was also a quote from Darren Mills to replace 73 yards of carpet in Judge Webster's office. The quote for the carpet is \$2300 to remove, replace, haul the old carpet away and move furniture out and back. Discussion was held. Bob made the motion to table this until next meeting. Dave seconded. Motion passed unanimously

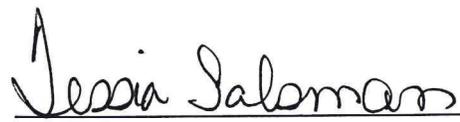
Also the quote from Awning Guy was brought up. This is to remove the existing side courthouse dome awning, strip and power wash frame and recover with sunbrella to match main canopies, install new egg crate panels and reinstall awning as a multi-paneled dome with sign band and is approximately 4' high, 4' wide x 3' projection, quote includes all labor and materials with sales tax. The quote is \$929.83. There is another quote for the bigger awning and they want \$9,078.95. Bob made the motion to table it until Greg can be at a meeting to explain it more. Dave seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Erin Anderson, from MUTC gave an update on the Cyber Academy. They are about to hold graduation on July 31 for about 40 students. This will make about 70 graduates in the last 2 years. COHORT 3 starts in August and they are looking at 30 students, half of them living on site in the dorms. There is chance there could be more.

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

Ray Hughes asked if there was a plan for the dead ash trees. Matt said no definite plan at this time.

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

  
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Tessia Salsman, Auditor

  
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Bob Willhite, Vice President

  
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Matt Sporleder, President

  
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Dave Lane