

Jennings County Council Meeting

Government Annex Building, Commissioners Meeting Room

February 11, 2020 6:00 pm

The meeting was opened with Howard Malcomb leading the Pledge of Allegiance.

All members were present with the exception of Paul Belding.

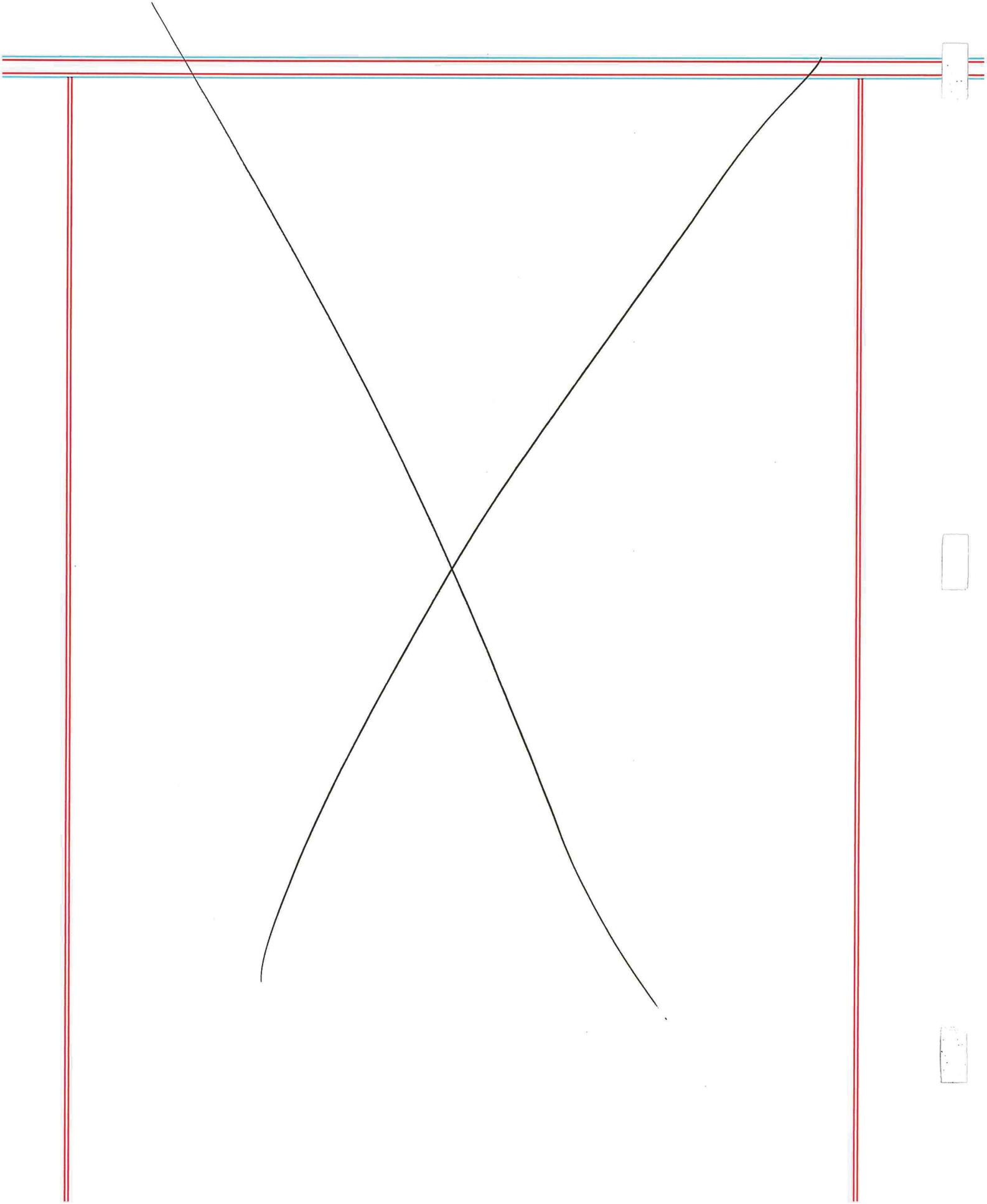
Howard had all council members look over the minutes from the previous meeting. Charlie Weber made the motion to approve the minutes, Dave Woodall seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Kurt Schneider and his associate from Johnson Melloh Solutions made a presentation on the Solar Panel project. The county has made 1 payment of \$68,000.00 in December 2019 and that is good for the oncoming year. This payment escalates up each year. The actual program was to help with energy rate escalations, better control temperature of building, using lower wattage lights. This was installed November 2018. He showed how much has been saved in 5 months time with the different county buildings. Jennings County is the only county who has library, city and county equipped with the solar panels. After much discussion and looking at the information provided, the council and Johnson Melloh decided they will get together in a small group for further discussion of the future growth of this project.

Up next was the Vernon Fire Department represented by Erik Kirkham and Roger Taylor (Vernon Twp Trustee). They reported that 3 companies have turned in bids for the new Vernon Firehouse. They were Bradshaw Builders, Driftwood Builders and The Pool Group. The lowest was Bradshaw Builders at \$629,800.00. They are looking at a total of about \$650,000.00 and asking for a commitment from the council of \$100,000.00 as with Campbell Township. Vernon is 1,000 square foot bigger. The township has \$110,000.00 in the bank and property for sale and hoping to get \$90,000.00 from it, fire dept has \$50,000.00. They have no funds coming from the town of Vernon. Also they can get a personal loan with a businessman for \$300,000.00 interest only for 3 years. The current building is just too small. Vernon is back up to the city fire department. The amount for Campbell Township came from LIT. Dave Woodall made the motion to commit to \$100,000.00 for Vernon Fire Station project. Bob Ellis seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Roger stated they will probably need that within the next month. Charlie Weber made a motion to appropriate the \$100,000.00 for when it is needed. Mandy Creech seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Dave Turner reported from the Sheriff's Department. He is asking for some invoices to be approved from the jail tax. One was Eagle Point because the server was not adequate to run the Spillman/Flex system. This was required for booking program and police reporting system. The amount was \$13,421.78. This would be reimbursed to the Commissary Fund. He said they just bought 2 vehicles for \$23,000.00 and it's \$16,000.00 to fit those vehicles. These are used for jail transport vehicles.

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Dave's 2nd request was a payback to the Commissary for the triple bunks that increased the jail space. The commissioners did not approve this previously but only because they didn't have the funding to approve it. They weren't against them putting the bunks in. It increased the bed space by 24 beds. This amount was \$10,240.00.

His 3rd request was the computer system needs to have Windows 10 or higher for the Spillman/Flex system. This was \$34,833.00 which is an open invoice. He is asking for options for the floors and counters at the book-in area. Also to put doors in dispatch is \$3,750.00. He is working with Matt Sporleder and Britt Burgmeier on this. There is currently only 1 door in and 1 door out, no emergency exit.

The total he is asking for out of the Commissary Fund is \$58,544.00. Bob Ellis asked why the council is not seeing the bills before. Mandy asked why the Sheriff's Dept keeps paying for things out of commissary fund before coming to the council. She said they may deplete the commissary fund doing this. They were supposed to be working on a long term plan. Dave Turner said the computer issue was at a standstill so they had to proceed by using the Commissary Fund. Charlie Weber agreed with Mandy's statement. He said that even though it was from the jail tax, it has been twisted to be the jail's pot of money to do what they want to do and anytime they need something they just take it out of that fund because it is there. He said the issue is not what has been done with the money it's the process that has been taken. He said they are trying to get a comprehensive plan together. Dave Woodall made a motion that the above amount is approved to replenish the Commissary Fund but before anything else is approved the Council needs a long term plan. Jessica Phillips from the Auditor's Office explained that they won't be able to use any of the money once in Rainy Day as it won't be appropriated. It would take 4 council members to approve this before it can be used. They want to know what has been spent so far out of the Rainy Day Fund and to keep a spread sheet on it. Dave Woodall repeated his motion of taking the money out of the Rainy Day Fund to replenish the Commissary Fund but from now on they must present to the Council before being reimbursed. Charlie Weber said the motion should be they are not going to approve any more expenditures until a plan is presented. Dave Woodall amended his motion to this will be paid this time but until any further amount is approved the council needs an updated long term plan from the Sheriff's Department. Charlie Weber seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Marie Shepherd from Area Plan brought up the Butlerville School project. There has been a group put together to oversee the project. This consists of Chad Ebinger, APC Board, Dave Lane, Commissioners, Charlie Weber, Dave Woodall and Mike Gerth, County Council. They have met with Ellie Bright and talked to an attorney and have come to the conclusion that they want to hire a company to be on retainer and strictly on an hour basis. This company specializes in handling things like this situation and deal with it all the time. They are looking to recover some of the funds through insurance policies from

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the school system to the current owner. Even if the policy is no longer in effect there may be liability wording that may cover this project. The group is \$425.00/hour and he has assured her that if he can pass it down to someone else it would lower to \$255.00/hour. An abatement company has to be hired. Brad Kage, APC attorney, and Ellie Bright, county attorney, would be available for help. She feels that we need the retainer and professionalism if needed. Ellie is asking, and will ask the commissioners at the next meeting, for permission to sign this engagement letter. Marie has reached out to the State regarding Unsafe Building Fund and their attorney is supposed to get back with her. She is hoping it can come out of that. If not, she would have to take it out of her Miscellaneous Expense Fund which is her part-time personnel. Charlie Weber made the motion to authorize Ellie Bright to sign the engagement letter with Plews Shadley Racher & Braun. Mandy Creech seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Marie said there is a temporary fence around the perimeter of the school and it has fallen in. Ellie agreed that is part of the liability with the county and the whole project. We need to get permanent fencing around that entire area. For fencing and posts from Goecker's it is \$5,125.00. This does not include installation. There is an option of leasing temporary fencing for 6 months but she feels this will take longer than 6 months. Charlie asked if a temporary fencing resolves the county of any liability. She will check into this. Dave Woodall said to check with Butlerville Fencing to get an estimate. After this is all over Cobalt will still own the property but the county will put a lien on the property taxes.

Jessica Phillips reported that Mike Kelley resigned from the Library Board as of January 1, 2020. There needs to be an appointment for this. Bob Ellis said he would call Rodney Ochs to see if this is something he would want to do. He tried to call him but left a voicemail message.

Howard Malcomb reported there is a sprinkler system leak. It is a pinhole leak and it has to be fixed. The commissioners and council have gone back and forth on this. The Sheriff's office wants to know if it can be paid from the special LIT Tax. The amount is \$2,545.84. Dave Woodall thought this was already approved. Courthouse Cum was out of money so that is why they are asking out of the Special LIT tax. Courthouse Cum now has money so it will be paid out of that at this time.

There is an extra meeting every 3 months (quarterly meetings). The next will be March 25, 2020 at 6 pm. These meetings are to work on the 5 year plan.

There was \$10,000.00 put in the Sheriff's Training budget but should have only been \$5,000.00 and \$5,000.00 in the jail training fund. Charlie made a motion to correct this. Dave Woodall seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

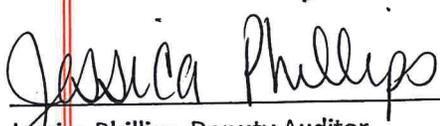
Library board appointment will need to be picked at next meeting.

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Charlie made the motion to adjourn. Howard seconded. Motion passed unanimously.



Jessica Phillips, Deputy Auditor



Bob Ellis



Howard Malcomb, President

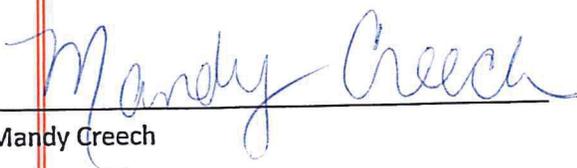
Dave Woodall, Vice President



Charlie Weber



Mike Gerth



Mandy Creech