

**JENNINGS COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING  
MARCH 13, 2018 7:00 P.M.**

All members present.

President, Mike Kelley opened the meeting by leading the pledge to the flag.

Tony Eder made a motion to approve prior minutes; Larry Maschino seconded the motion. Motion passed with a unanimous vote.

First on the agenda was Don Biehle, Campbell Twp. Fire Chief, with an update on the upcoming new fire house. Brad Bender with FPBH, Inc was with Mr. Biehle to address the Council concerning the bids that were received. There were four bids received for the construction of the new fire house and they all were over \$1 million dollars. Mr. Biehle stated this forced them to reduce the size of the building and parking lot which leaves them with a budget of \$808,000.00. Mr. Biehle and Mr. Bender broke down the budget for the council as follows:

**Project Costs**

Building and Site Development (estimated)	\$708,000.00
Engineering, Administration, Legal	<u>\$100,000.00</u>
Total Costs	\$808,000.00

**Funding Sources**

OCRA Grant	\$500,000.00
Jennings County Council	\$ 50,000.00
Campbell Twp. Fire Dept.	\$148,000.00
Campbell Twp. Trustee	<u>\$ 20,000.00</u>
Total Funds	\$718,000.00

Funding Shortfall \$90,000.00

Mr. Biehle requested that the County pick up the shortfall amount of \$90,000.00

After much discussion, Dave Woodall suggested that Mr. Biehle and Mr. Bender to go ahead and advertise for new bids on the smaller structure and parking lot. After the bids are received, come back to the Council and let them know if there is still a need of additional funds.

Tony Eder made a motion to table until the next council meeting; Larry Maschino seconded the motion. Motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Next was Kathy Ertel. Director of EDC, with 2 CF1 Personal Property forms for Decatur Mold. Mrs. Ertel stated that Decatur Mold has exceeded expectations on wages; they are at \$9 million in wages.

Dave Woodall made a motion to approve the CF1 forms for 1 year for Decatur Mold; Tony Eder seconded the motion. Motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Next was Reuben Cummings, the County Financial Advisor, concerning the possibility of the County helping obtain a 10 year lease for the County Volunteer Fire Departments for 90 Self Contained Breathing Apparatus or referred to as Air Packs.

Mr. Cummings stated one option would be for the County to take on purchasing the air packs through leasing but then there would be a question of actual ownership and there would be advertising costs for bids for the air packs and the financing; but it is a viable option.

Another option is for the County to pay the fire departments what had already been set aside and Mr. Cummings stated he had spoken with Ellie Webster, County Attorney about preparing an inter local agreement among the departments and with the county for a time commitment of the monies. Let the departments buy them for themselves and do the lease; there is no bid process or financing issues whatsoever. Mr. Cummings has talked with Republic 1<sup>st</sup> National who gave him the first bid on the lease and was told that the lease could be done with all the department names or one department name or there were several options available.

The Council agreed that they would let the fire department do the lease and make the payments and the County would issue the monies to each department; from what had already been set aside. Mr. Cummings said he was glad they felt that way because that was going to be his recommendation.

There was some concern about what if some of the fire departments didn't want to pay; who would be held accountable? Mike Kelley stated the lease would be in the fire departments name and it would fall to them to make sure the payments were made. The lease would be in either the Fire Chief Association or the individual fire departments names; the county's commitment is only for the revenue.

Mr. Cummings stated that any overage after the payment was made from the County to the fire departments could be used by the departments however they see fit; save up for another truck or they could start thinking about pooling their monies again on another project such as radios or turnout gear. Mr. Cummings stated that's why he contacted the leasing company first to see if it would be a problem to have the lease in 6 fire department names before he presented this option to the Council and as long

as the Council gives the revenue commitment; there would be no problem. Mr. Cummings estimated the payment annually would be around \$77,000 and each of the 6 fire departments right now received \$31,333 a year.

Howard Malcomb made a motion to proceed with a 10 year revenue commitment to the fire department for the leasing agreement. Tony Eder seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 4 yes 3 no vote.

The matter of when to release the remaining funds to the fire departments was discussed and agreed upon to wait until the financing was in place and see who was going to be participating in the lease agreement.

Josh Yeager asked Sheriff Driver how much money he had in the Commissary fund last year. Sheriff Driver didn't know off the top of his head but estimated around \$165,000. Mr. Yeager proposed that next year that those monies be taken into account during budget time. Sheriff Driver said that those monies are used for training for his officers and staff and ammunition and he has purchased 9 vehicles at no costs to the county from that fund and he current has two truck sordered but on back order. Sheriff Driver this keeps him from coming in or budgeting out of the general fund vehicles and training funds.

With no further business, Josh Yeager made a motion to adjourn; Tony Eder seconded the motion. Motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Attest:



Kay Sue Vance, Auditor



Mike Kelley, President



Dave Woodall

---

Howard Malcomb

*Paul Belding*

---

Paul Belding

*Tony Eder*

---

Tony Eder

*Larry Maschino*

---

Larry Maschino

---

Josh Yeager