

Jennings County Commissioners  
Zoom Meeting  
December 17, 2020

All members were present.

Sheriff Kenny Freeman said they met with Harmon Construction on the new HVAC at the jail. Harmon's has a contract that needs to be signed by the Commissioners. The total cost of the project included 2 600,000 BTU boilers, 2 circulation pumps, heat exchanger, inline water filter, water softener and mixing valves and that equaled \$75,717.00. Originally the estimate was \$84,000.00 for the boilers, \$22,000.00 for the pumps and \$2,200.00 for the heat exchanger. Those other items were not included in that estimate so they made out good for that project. The next step for the heat and air project is to develop the specs and bid out the piping, 26 heat pumps to be replaced, the control system for all of it and the cooling tower replacement. Once that is done they can get the bids out so they can have the entire project completed by the 10<sup>th</sup> of April, 2021. That is usually when Greg turns the cooling tower on. Once that is complete they can work on the water heaters and the air handlers. Those are much smaller projects and may or may not need to be bid out.

He also talked about a water conservation project. He would like to put 2 water meters, one in each of the big blocks and shower valves on all the showers with a lower volume shower head and this should reduce the volume in those 2 showers by about 30-40%. This is only for those 2 areas. The cost for that is about \$4,500.00 and should pay for itself over time. Once they are installed he can tell exactly how long it will take to pay for itself. He would like to get approval on that so he can go ahead with it. Matt said he agrees with him. Bob made the motion to approve the water conservation project. Dave seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Matt said they need to vote to approve the boilers. The jail was going to cover this for a short time out of Commissary but then that would be reimbursed from the jail tax money. He said the Council needs to see that the Commissioners approved the replacement of the boilers. Bob made the motion to approve the payment of the boilers for the jail out of Rainy Day Fund. Dave seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Matt asked Tessia to get this information to the Council so the jail can be reimbursed.

Bob made the motion to allow Harmon's to solicit bids for the next phase on the jail HVAC. Dave seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Matt said the REMC ordinance was tabled last meeting until Matt could talk to Ellie about this. Ellie talked to Barry Lauber from REMC. He understood that whatever equipment they installed in a 6 year span would not be taxed for the 6 years and then after the 6 years it would roll back into being taxed to be income for the county. However he felt the ordinance didn't read that way and asked Ellie to clarify it. He said the way the ordinance is written anything that is built in that 6 year period of time will never come back on the tax roll. If that is correct Matt said he recommends this continue to be tabled for a bit because there is all kinds of things coming up as far as technology ie grants, etc. He hates to see the county rush into it. Ellie confirmed that it is correct. Bob made the motion to table this until after the first of the year. Bob seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Matt said the next thing to discuss is the Home Rule Ordinance by Ellie. Ellie wrote this in response to

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the recent law suit between the Clerk and Auditor as far as attorneys being paid should this ever happen in the future. Ellie said basically the Home Rule language is the law that lets counties make local law and policies specific to the county. This applies to county elected officials or official, defines law suit when one sues the other. This does not disallow a lawsuit but it does say if one is going to file a suit then you can apply for petition of your attorney fees. This is if you are suing or being sued by another county official. Then the Commissioners can approve it or not and then it goes to the County Council to determine where it would be paid. If it's not approved by the Council then either all, a portion or none then it goes back to the Commissioners to be paid out of the Commissioners budget. It does not apply to county officials who are sued by private citizens in Tort Actions. Matt said he read the ordinance and he felt it was over his head so he is relying on Ellie to decide if this is written and worded the way it needs to be to protect everyone that might be involved. She said this lays down the procedure for what the expectations are for attorney fees. This does not require 2 readings. Matt said he would like for county officials to have the chance to review this and bring it back later for a vote. Bob made the motion to table this and decide at the next meeting. Dave seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Tessia said she will send out an e-mail to all the department heads to review and get back with any questions and/or comments before the next meeting.

Matt said he didn't get the prior minutes. Bob and Dave said they haven't seen them either.

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

Matt is asking for donations for a county employee that has a sick child.

He wished everyone a Merry Christmas. It has been a pleasure working with those who will moving on the first of the year.

Bob wished everyone Merry Christmas. He made the motion to adjourn. Dave seconded. Motion passed unanimously.



Tessia Salsman, Auditor



Bob Willhite, Vice-President



Matt Sporleder, President



~~Dave Lane~~  
Shane Baswell