

Jennings County Commissioners  
Zoom Meeting  
February 25, 2021

All Commissioners were present.

Nicci Lucas, HR, reported that she has an interview tomorrow to hopefully fill the part-time custodial job for the courthouse. She said an issue that keeps coming up is the rate of pay. She said it is \$11.56/ hour and that is lower than the other part-time positions. She was asking if they would raise it to \$12.00/hour. She said she knows this will need to go before the Council. Bob made the motion to increase the pay for the part-time custodial position to \$12.00/hour. Shane seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Nicci also said Marie Shepherd, Area Plan, had someone turn in their resignation. She is asking permission to fill that. She is also requesting to hire an additional part-time person. This will be paid out of the same line item that she has budgeted so there will be no additional money needed. Shane made the motion to allow Marie to hire a full time and an additional part-time person. Bob seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Marie Shepherd, Area Plan, said the Commissioners need to appoint a position for Essential Services. It is currently held by Bill Robbins and he no longer wants to serve on this board. John Post said he would like to serve on that board. John is not running for Vernon Town Council so he would be able to serve in that position under the Commissioners appointment. Shane made the motion to fill the position on the Essential Services board with John Post. Bob seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Marie said she needs to have a special meeting about the new ordinance to allow the public to come in. She has currently had 7 public meetings, the city council and Town of Vernon has passed it but talking with some of the public they would like a special meeting. This meeting would be for public input and the meeting after that the Commissioners could vote on it at that point. Matt said he would like to have the meeting 2-3 weeks out so there would plenty of time to advertise. Matt said he would like to have it at the Community Building. He asked Alex to start reviewing this. They would like to have it before Spring Break and at 6 pm.

Matt wanted to discuss fire departments funding. In previous years the Commissioners have put it in their budget (\$200,000.00) to help the volunteer fire departments. He said if the Commissioners approve it, it will then go before the Council to approve and decide how this will be disbursed (whether it is given directly to the Fire Departments or given to the Township Trustees to disburse). Matt said his wife said it causes issues with the bookkeeping if the Trustee has control of it. He is concerned that some trustees contract with out-of-county fire departments (Columbia Township contracts with Westport and he believes Sand Creek does too and he thinks Bigger contracts with Dupont). He said his thought is that even though they are not in Jennings County they are taking care of Jennings County residents and should be included. He said the Council will need to make that decision. Dave Woodall, County Council, said that there is a little more than \$200,000.00 to be approved. Matt said he would like to keep it at the \$200,000.00 and keep the additional in case of an emergency. Bob made the

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motion to approve the amount appropriated in the budget and send it to the Council to be distributed. Shane seconded. Motion passed unanimously.


Tessia said she has a full-time position open and she would like to move her part-time person to that position. She would then like to hire for a part-time position. This is in her budget. Shane made the motion to approve those positions. Bob seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Nicci said the position still needs to be posted.

Shane made the motion to allow Matt to sign payroll and claims. Bob seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Shane made the motion to approve the January 28 and February 11 minutes. Bob seconded. Motion passed unanimously.


Tessia asked if she could bypass the posting of the above mentioned position. Their office is very short staffed and would like to go ahead with this. Alex said the handbook doesn't say it needs to be posted for 7 days. Matt asked if they could work this out between Nicci, Tessia and Alex.

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

  
 Tessia Salsman, Auditor

  
 Bob Willhite, Vice-President

  
 Matt Sporleder, President

  
 Shane Boswell