

Phillips County Commissioner Meeting

February 29, 2016

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Co-Chair Joe Kinnie and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. Also present were Commissioner Harlan Stern, County Administrator Randy Schafer, and County Clerk Beth Zilla. Commissioner Lock was absent.

Stern made a motion, seconded by Kinnie to approve the minutes from the February 17, 2016 meeting as presented. Motion carried.

The board approved payroll for the month of February.

The board met with Trampas Hutches. He introduced himself as the new Melissa Memorial Hospital Administrator. He commented that the new construction was going as planned and that they are always looking for new physicians.

Jerry From asked the commissioners to consider putting an issue on the 2016 ballot. He suggested they reintroduce the selling of marijuana in Phillips County. From would like this to be put to a vote of the people. The board decided to table this discussion at least until the March 9th meeting. Stern and Kinnie noted that they would like to have input from Lock before proceeding.

The board met with Clint Cooper, Superintendent for Simon Contractors. His company is the contractor for the Highway 23 resurfacing project. He agreed to work up a cost estimate for the driveway connecting County Road 41 and Colorado 23.

The board met with the local newspapers for their monthly briefing.

The board met with Bill Pelle on his rental agreement for the event center. Pelle plans to serve alcohol at their event. The board approved his application as long as he provides the alcohol deposit and the certificate of insurance for an alcohol event. No special event permit will be required.

James Tomky met with the board to complain about the roads in Phillips County. His specific complaints were: little to no gravel on roads, water being diverted so it runs down the middle of the road (Co Rd 53), a road west of his home being moved, brome grass being killed out, and roads that are too wide. Road supervisor Mike Salyards agreed to meet with Tomky to look at his issues.

The board met with Lori Nelson and Earl Downing with Computers Etc. They asked why the county chose to use IT services provided by New Age Electronics from Sterling without seeking a bid from Computers Etc. or exploring their services. They felt that as a local vendor, they should have been able to compete.

Sheriff Rob Urbach gave a brief update of his research on new lock systems.

At 1:00 p.m. the board met with the Human Services staff for regular monthly business. The minutes for this portion of the meeting are maintained by the Department of Human Services.

A motion was made by Stern, seconded Kinnie, to approve a step increase for Monica Ramirez, Administrative Assistant/Interpreter for Human Services. She will be moved to HS Grade 60 Step 2 at an annual salary of \$25,848.52 (\$2,154.04/month), effective March 23, 2016. Motion carried. She received a satisfactory performance appraisal.

The board approved the Planning and Weed and Pest Departments signing of the Bridges to Opportunity agreements as requested by the FSA office. The agreements specify that FSA can refer clients with planning or weed control questions to the county.

The board reviewed recommendations from the Weed and Pest Advisory Board to extend the life of the district to June 20, 2022, and to amend the noxious weed management plan. The board will hold a public hearing for consideration of the recommendations.

The board approved closure of the County Clerk's office on April 13th for training.

The board approved a bid of \$1,224.65 from Brackhan Electric to change the lighting pattern in Heginbotham Hall.

The board was informed that Veris Environmental was starting on the Holyoke Sewage Bio-solids Project on Friday, February 26th.

The board reviewed the following reports:

- January expenses by department
- R&B revenue and expenditures
- Fund balances through January

Event Center rentals:

- Holyoke Chamber of Commerce
- Carissa Mill
- CHS – AIP
- Bethleen McCall
- Rod Lenz
- Frenchman Valley Co-op

The meeting adjourned at 2:42 p.m.

Submitted by Beth Zilla
Phillips County Clerk

Donald J. Lock

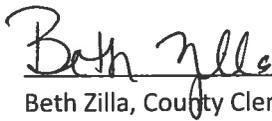


K. Joe Kinnie



Harlan Stern

Attest:



Beth Zilla, County Clerk