

Decatur County Commissioners
November 18, 2013 8:00 a.m. Room 106

Present: Rick Nobbe, Jerome Buening, John Richards
Minutes were approved as presented.
Claims were approved.

David Graham was first on the agenda but was not present.

Marc Coplon, Economic Development Commission Director gave his quarterly report. There is a 675 acre shovel-ready site north of Honda. He discussed his activities and listed the successes that the EDC has been a part of. He has been talking with a consultant to update the website too. A copy of the full report was given to the commissioners.

Janet Chadwell, Clerk of Courts, came before the board to ask permission to put a Christmas tree in the main (south) hallway. The Mainstreet group has already asked for and received permission to use the atrium for Santa visits. Ms. Chadwell would like to put an additional tree in the south hallway. Commissioner Nobbe mentioned that Mainstreet has done a great job. Commissioner Richards had some safety concerns with it being in the hallway. Ms. Chadwell said she has a skinny tree. The commissioners asked that someone check with Harold Sample on any ADA issues and also whether electrical will be a problem. They gave permission for the Clerk's office to put up the additional tree.

Dean Freije, Frieje Easy System, also known as "easy water" was in to discuss his water softening system that doesn't require salt. After some discussion, Mr. Nobbe said he would check the different county owned facilities to see what their needs are and he'll get back with Mr. Freije. The courthouse does not currently utilize any sort of system.

Darcy Myers, Community Health Care Clinic, was in and although the \$10,000 was approved for the clinic it wasn't included in the 2014 budget. Mr. Nobbe stated that it is now included in the 2014 budget.

Ms. Janet Bedel, St. Maurice Water Company, was in with Bob Bedel, Jeff Gauck and Pat Kramer regarding the lack of water resources in St. Maurice. The town is working with Napoleon Water. The group was in to find out if there are any restrictions on proceeding with plans to do construction next spring. They had specific questions concerning an ordinance and County Attorney Peg Polanski said they should contact an attorney and have that attorney contact her. They still need to hand out easement papers. It was noted that Rural Water never had surveys and their easement papers are almost identical to what St. Maurice is utilizing. The issue will be investigated by both sides and be revisited in a month.

Carol Beck, Board of Health, introduced Sean Durbin to the Commissioners. The Center for Disease Control has made money available to the health department for a variety of tasks. The money is available in grant form. Mr. Durbin indicated he is willing to work additional hours to get these tasks accomplished. The BOH has requested 2 new computers/radios. This will be considered federal grant money with the state having to approve the grant before it is given at the local level. The total request is \$15,000. In his EMA Director capacity, Rob Duckworth has worked with Mr. Durbin to fill some of the voids for the preparedness grant. They estimate 10 hours a week will be needed to work on the contract. There were some questions and concerns about the contract. It was noted that every penny of the grant money will need to be documented. Part of what is required will include a mock emergency drill. Someone has to be tasked with the responsibility of putting the plan together and then monitoring the time involved and what each activity is that needs performed. It was decided that Mr. Durbin will be responsible for this and his work will be documented. Mr. Buening made a motion to authorize the Decatur County Health Department to use preparedness grant money for Mr. Durbin's salary. Mr. Richards seconded the motion. The motion carried.

David Graham, Workplace Benefits Insurance arrived at the meeting and thanked the county for being the only county to respond to his request. He provides a variety of supplemental insurances and can produce a side by side comparison for persons who may be interested in any of the companies that he brokers for. He discussed what his company offers and suggested that he be able to use five employees as a test group to see if the platform he offers would be helpful to the county. After some discussion,

Mr. Nobbe offered to perform an informal poll to see what individual departments would like to see. He will get back with Mr. Graham if there is any interest in pursuing his platform of product.

The Assessor presented a contract for legal counsel pertaining to privately owned lake properties in a state level case. Lake Santee falls under this category and is part of the larger suit being filed. After some discussion, Mr. Richards moved that the contract be signed allowing an attorney with property assessment background to represent the county. Mr. Buening seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Jenny Zapfe presented the proposed holiday schedule for 2014. The state changed its normal procedure and gave Christmas Day and the day after instead of the traditional Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. It was assumed that was done to allow for a four day weekend. The schedule will be reviewed later in December.

ESPY Services are looking at communications billings and will be giving us a recommendation on saving money. If they cannot find an area where savings can be made, the county will owe them nothing. Mr. Buening moved to allow ESPY to conduct a review of the telecommunications billing. Mr. Richards seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Mr. Nobbe asked for a motion for the Commissioners to adopt the Personnel Policy upon adoption by the Council. Mr. Nobbe will attend the Council meeting on the 19th and ask for their approval. Mr. Buening moved to approve the Policy. Mr. Richards seconded the motion. The motion carried.

It was noted that the fire alarm valves failed the annual inspection. An estimate of \$1628.65 for the valves and \$452.37 for the smoke detectors was approved in a motion made by Mr. Richards and seconded by Mr. Buening. The motion carried.

The non-reverting insurance fund is running very low and there was discussion in funding it at a higher level. Mr. Nobbe will talk to the Council about it.

Cottonwood Lakes are still working on their financing options for their proposed project. They will appear at the second meeting in December to give an update.

Copies of a prior security assessment were given to the commissioners for review of what can be done to improve courthouse security.

FMLA – Highway should be through the Auditor’s office as long as the employee meets the criteria. The employee has to pay the insurance. (Tami needs to ask about this because the employee’s insurance should be paid by county...only additional coverage’s ie: family or dental should be paid by the employee)

Tami Wenning had submitted a written request to purchase a wheelchair for use in the courthouse. Her request mentioned several instances where members of the public were unable to safely get themselves to where they needed to be. There was discussion of the liability aspect of the county providing a chair and what the requirements are under the ADA guidelines. That will be researched.

Mr. Buening mentioned that since board appointments are coming up that maybe mention should be made on the local radio for persons interested to put their names in at the Auditor’s office.

Mr. Buening moved to recess. Mr. Richards seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Rick Nobbe, President

Attest _____

Date _____