

Hancock County Board of Commissioners Minutes

July 13, 2009

Commissioners met in regular session. Those present were Commissioner Derek Towle, Commissioner Brad Armstrong and Commissioner Tom Stevens. Auditor Robin D. Lowder was also present. Attorney Ray Richardson arrived at 7:58 am. The recording began at 7:32 am.

In The Matter of)

Hancock County Highway)

Access Easement)

Hancock County Engineer Joseph Copeland appeared to ask for a temporary access easement on 575 East, already in effect, to be amended. The original document stated the driveway was to be removed. The owners of the property EAM Inc. Joseph L. Eakin have requested the driveway not be removed. The amending of the original document will save the cost of hauling in dirt to remove the driveway. United Consulting has agreed to amend the document. Commissioner Stevens made a motion to grant the amendment of the access easement to state the driveway is not to be removed. Commissioner Armstrong seconded the motion. The motion was carried 3-0.

In The Matter Of)

Hancock County Highway

Area Security Initiative Program Meeting)

Engineer Joseph Copeland appeared to receive direction from the Commissioners if his attendance was required at the Area Security Initiative Program Meeting. Larry Ervin from emergency management e-mailed the information to Joe Copeland. The meeting is July 31, 2009. The meeting is information about the U.S. Dept. of Homeland Security grant program. The meeting is in reference to urban areas. The Commissioners recommended Joe Copeland attends the meeting. Commissioner Stevens voiced a desire to attend the meeting also. The Commissioners decided to inquire about them also attending the meeting.

In The Matter of)

Hancock County Highway)

Bridge Resurface Contract)

Joe Copeland appeared to inform the Commissioners the resurfacing of the bridges is completed. They have finished the Bridge Resurface Contract. Baumgartener came in with the lowest bid. His original bid was \$93,162.02 the final bid was \$77,381.32. This made a savings of \$15,780.70.

In The Matter Of)

Hancock County Highway)

Meeting with County Council on Future Bridge Work)

Joseph Copeland appeared before the Commissioners to inform them he is appearing before the County Council to report on the Cumulative Bridge Fund. He will be discussing Bridge Projects. We presently have 152 bridges. Joe is putting in a request to increase the Cumulative Bridge Fund to its maximum levy. He will be reporting to the council as of 2008 the county has 16 bridges that are functionally obsolete and 5 that are structurally deficient. If a bridge is rated 15 ton or less it must be posted. Farm trucks, commercial trucks and some school buses cannot use these bridges. Federal Funds are much lower than in previous years and the expense for replacing the bridges is increasing. Several Bridges from the 1960's and the 70's will need to be replaced. Two culverts need to be replaced also. One at 600 South between 400 and 450 West. The other one is on 500 West just South of US 40. The second one he will slip line the pipe.

In The Matter Of)

Hancock County Highway)

Possible Fence Removal)

Joseph Copeland appeared before the Commissioners to inform them the fence on 550 North will probably need to be torn down. Attorney Ray Richardson is in the process of drafting a letter.

In The Matter Of)

Emergency Operation Center Building)

Carpet)

The Commissioners discussed quotes they had received for carpet for the E.O.C. Henry's Flooring Inc. and Blakely's Flooring. Blakely's was the lowest quote for \$3080.44. Commissioner Stevens made a motion to buy the carpet from Blakely's Flooring

and Commissioner Armstrong seconded the motion. The motion was carried 3-0.

In The Matter Of)

Hancock Regional Hospital)

Historical Book)

Director of the hospital, Mr. Bobby Keen, appeared to thank the County and the Commissioners for their continued support of the hospital. He presented a Historical Book about the hospital to the County. He shared some history of the hospital with the Commissioners. The hospital was founded by Fannie Andis. She had lost a child in childbirth and believed if there had been a hospital close her baby would have survived. Doctors that came back from the war joined in with her efforts and established the hospital in 1951. The hospital has not received tax dollars since 1996. The hospital writes off 1 million dollars a month for charity care and bad debts. The hospital is proud to be county owned. It has 350 plus volunteers that volunteered over 45,000 hrs. of time last year. It also donated \$100,000 to help build a women's center. A book has been donated to the Library and Library donors will also receive a copy. Books can also be purchased in the gift shop at the Hospital.

In The Matter Of)

Sheriff Dept. Emergency Operation Center)

Resignation of Director)

Greenfield Police Chief John Jester introduced the Director of the E.O.C. Ty Wooten. Ty Wooten tendered his resignation effective July 13, 2009. Mr. Wooten thanked the staff and said it had been an honor to be the first director of the new E.O.C. He also wished the supervisors and staff all the best. The E.O.C. board recommended his resignation be accepted. Commissioner Stevens made a motion that Ty Wooten's resignation be accepted and is effective immediately. Commissioner Armstrong seconded. The motion carried 3-0.

In The Matter Of)

Sheriff Dept. Emergency Operation Center)

Termination of Courtney Shively)

The E.O.C. Board recommended the termination of Public Service Dispatcher Courtney Shively based on a violation of section 200 in the Employee Conduct Manual. Commissioner Stevens made a motion for the termination of Courtney Shively. Commissioner Armstrong seconded the motion. The motion was carried 3-0.

In The Matter Of)

Sheriff Dept. E.O.C.)

Appointment of Interim Director of E.O.C.)

John Jester appeared before the Commissioners to inform them Connie Hoy was recommended by the E.O.C. board to be the Interim Director of the E.O.C. Sheriff Gray will go before the County Council on Wednesday to ask them to refill this position.

In The Matter Of)

Sheriff Bud Gray E.O.C.)

Appreciation of Ty Wooten)

Sheriff Bud Gray stated he appreciated the great work Ty Wooten had done with the E.O.C. Sheriff Gray wanted his accomplishments to be acknowledged.

In The Matter Of)

Assessor's Office)

Clarification on Personnel Policy)

Assessor Carole Maynard asked for a clarification on the hiring of relatives of other employees. Commissioners recommended no relative supervising their own relative or if the relative has a direct impact on that relative's salary. Ultimately the decision rests with the office holder.

In The Matter Of)

Memorial Building)

Pictures and Changing Ownership)

Mayor Brad DeReamer offered to relocate the pictures in the Memorial Building to City Hall. The City of Greenfield may be interested in taking over ownership of the Memorial Building and the Parks Dept. may also be interested. The Commissioners decided not to change the location of the pictures until a decision about the building was made. The Commissioners tabled the discussion for the present.

In The Matter Of)

Township Trustees)

Ambulance Service)

Commissioner Stevens drafted a letter to the Township Trustees. Informing them that in 2010 the county will only contribute 50% of the money they paid out in 2009 to county wide ambulance service and in 2011 the balance in the fund will be 0. There will no longer be any funding of County wide ambulance service beginning in 2011. Commissioner Stevens made a motion to no longer provide county wide ambulance service after the year 2010. Commissioner Armstrong seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0.

In The Matter Of)

Auditor's Office)

Request Of Recorder's Perpetuation Fund Budgetary Status Report)

Bookkeeper Ginny Martin from the Auditor's Office had a request from Jeff Lilly for the Budgetary Status Report for information he is gathering for other counties. Attorney Ray Richardson recommended providing the reports to him. These reports are public record. Commissioner Stevens made a motion to give Jeff Lilly the requested report. Commissioner Armstrong seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0.

In The Matter Of)

Minutes)

July 06, 2009)

Commissioner Stevens made a motion to accept the minutes from the Commissioners' meeting July 6, 2009. Commissioner Armstrong seconded the motion and Commissioner Towle abstained. The motion was carried 2-0 with 1 abstention.

In The Matter Of)

Health Dept.)

Smoking On Sidewalk)

Health Dept.)

The Health Dept. questioned who has the responsibility and who enforces the no smoking ordinance of 25 feet from the entrance of a building. The Commissioners discussed several possibilities. Attorney Ray Richardson decided he needed to research the matter more thoroughly. The discussion was tabled at this time.

In The Matter Of)

Sheriff Dept.)

Bill Amended For Mulch)

Deputy Donnie Smith of the Sheriff Dept. stated in the Commissioners July 6, 2009 meeting the mulch for the Courthouse and the Annex would be 45 yards at \$5 a yard. When the bill was submitted it was for 60 yards of mulch at \$5 a yard. The 60 yards at \$5 a yard was confirmed by Deputy Donnie Smith to be the correct amount. Commissioner Armstrong made a motion to pay for 60yds. instead of 45yds. not to exceed \$300. Commissioner Stevens seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0.

In the Matter Of)

Courthouse Repair)

Maintenance And Repair of Clock)

Commissioner Armstrong presented a routine maintenance agreement for clock repairs with Smith's Bell and Clock Service for the Courthouse tower clock. Commissioner Armstrong made a motion to accept the contract for the Courthouse clock maintenance with Smith's Bell and Clock Service not to exceed \$500. Commissioner Stevens seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0.

In The Matter Of)

S.R.I. Inc)

Ad for Surplus Sale)

S.R.I Inc e-mailed a sample of a surplus ad they would advertise with. Commissioner Armstrong suggested it be done as a press release. This way the release would have no cost. Commissioner Armstrong made a motion to let S.R.I. advertise the Surplus Sales as a press release and to set the dates of the sales. Commissioner Stevens seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0.

In The Matter Of)

Sheriff Dept.)

Early Retirement)

Bill Applegate emailed and questioned if employees may be asked to retire early. Commissioners stated the County Council had discussed this but had not made any decisions to the Commissioners knowledge. This is a council decision.

In The Matter of)

City of Greenfield)

Leads on Labs)

Commissioner Towle reported the City of Greenfield Police Dept. suggested the county may want to do an ordinance addressing Leads on Labs. The Commissioners discussed the possibility at some point in time they may need to do the Ordinance. It would pertain to the businesses that sell the ingredients used in Methamphetamine Labs. Attorney Ray Richardson will be reviewing the information.

Recording stopped at 9:56 am.

Approved this _____ day of _____, 2009

Hancock County Commissioners

Attest: _____

Robin D. Lowder
Hancock County Auditor

