

Hancock County Board of Commissioner's Minutes

November 22, 2011

Commissioners met in regular session. Those present were Commissioner Brad Armstrong, President, Commissioner Derek Towle, Vice President, and Commissioner Tom Stevens. Auditor Robin D. Lowder was also present.

Hancock County Board of Commissioner's meeting began at 8:02am

Attorney Ray Richardson arrived at 8:02am

In The Matter of the Hancock County Coroner's Office

Van - Coroner Tammy Vangundy would like to purchase a used vehicle for use by the Coroner's Office for around \$7,000.00 to \$8,000.00. All issues with the use of the van have been addressed. The Hancock County Board of Commissioners will support her going to council on this matter.

Executive Session - Commissioner Stevens moved to advertise for an Executive Session to discuss terms of a potential land acquisition on November 29, 2011 at a time to be determined. Commissioner Towle seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0.

In The Matter of the Hancock County Auditor

Funds - Auditor Robin Lowder requested approval to move funds from line item 0101-068-30-0024, telephone to line item 0101-068-30-0031, advertising in the amount of \$500.00. Commissioner Stevens moved approval to make the requested transfer. Commissioner Towle seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0.

In The Matter of the Hancock County IT Department

IT - Telephone contract with Gibson requires an authorized signature, software assurance already approved. Commissioner Armstrong signed the order.

In The Matter of the Hancock County Capital Improvement Plan for CEDIT Expenditures

John Priore - appeared before the Commissioners regarding the CIP plan and stated the CIP plan is very important to the County. Both the Commissioners and the Council should work together to set up a one to five year plan with items prioritized. When new items presented to be added to the CIP they should be ranked upon necessity and the CIP should then be updated fit the new item. The CIP should be done correctly which will take time. The revolving fund is not a good plan, the County does not need to be in banking.

Carolyn Flynn - appeared before the Commissioners regarding the Revolving Fund. She does not like the concept. She is happy to see the need for the CIP is recognized. If there is excess money, it should be returned to the tax payers, not to issue at risk loans.

John Shaw - appeared before the Commissioners regarding the Revolving Fund. He saw the article in the Greenfield Reporter concerning loaning money. He feels government should not compete with commercial to loan the taxpayers money. It is not in the best interest of the County.

Former Commissioner Armin Apple - appeared before the Commissioners regarding the CIP and Revolving Fund. There are two issues to address. The CIP which it is very important to establish and the Revolving Loan Fund which he stated this is a great risk and not a government function. Concerns are to who would determine collateral/security, what if the loan is not paid back, and the questions of why is someone coming to the County for a loan, do they have bad credit? Anyone the County would loan to would have to agree to the County making all steps open for public review. He also feels there should not be a committee formed to look at this, the elected officials should make the decisions.

County Commissioners - Commissioner Armstrong explained that Dennis Maloy felt the Revolving Fund would put the County in a competitive position with other Counties. What has come out of the fund is a contribution of \$40,000.00 to the Hancock County Economic Development Committee for the last two years, a fund in the amount of \$50,000.00 was set up to tear down unsafe buildings. Also, the use of the amount of money the County has is not enough to make a difference in the Economic Development of the County. Commissioner Stevens stated he is intrigued by the Revolving Fund, but shares the concerns of the risk factor such as Competition with local banks, and what if the loans fail. A Revolving fund should be on the CIP but as a low priority. Commissioner Towle stated he agreed the revolving fund looks good, but there are concerns such as what the incentive would be to come to the County for a loan and not a bank. The parameters would be tight and the County would need to be very careful with guidelines and make all information public record for the County to loan money. Commissioner Armstrong stated the money collected for Economic Development and it is the Commissioner's job to create the most assessed value, jobs and quality of life for residents of Hancock County. The CIP would begin to set the direction of the County over the next two to ten years. Not all projects will fit as Economic Development such as a new roof on the jail. Commissioner Stevens suggested putting out a request to all departments for potential projects that might be included in the CIP - including City and Towns, covering all aspects. Former Commissioner Armin Apple stated the County should work on needs before wants. Auditor Robin Lowder and Attorney Ray Richardson stated the City and Towns that have submitted their CIP and have already received their CEDIT money.

The Commissioners instruct Auditor Robin Lowder to have all Departments and other agency's turn in their CIP by January 6, 2012.

It was also suggested that minimum balances be set as to where the County wants to be on the County Cumulative Capital Development Fund, Food & Beverage Fund and Rainy Day Fund.

The meeting adjourned at 9:20am

Hancock County Commissioners

Commissioner Brad Armstrong, President

Commissioner Derek Towle, Vice President

Commissioner Tom Stevens

Attest: _____

Robin D. Lowder
Hancock County Auditor