

Hancock County Board of Commissioners' Minutes

November 8, 2013

Commissioners met in Special Session. Those present were Commissioner Derek Towle, President, Commissioner Brad Armstrong, Vice President and Commissioner Tom Stevens.

Auditor Robin D. Lowder and Attorney Ray Richardson were also present.

Hancock County Board of Commissioners' meeting began at 9:00 a.m.

In The Matter of the County Farm Crop Land Lease

Discussion of the present County Farm Crop Land Lease: The present lease, which was signed August 7, 2012, is with Todd Heller, Dave Lark and Cynthia Noel.

Those present this morning were Matt Lark, Dave Lark's son, Lenore Lark, Dave Lark's widow, and Richard Noel, Cynthia Noel's husband who is also an attorney.

The present lease is for four years but during the first year of the lease Mr. Heller filed bankruptcy, then he passed away and then Mr. Lark also passed away. Commissioner Stevens spoke with the Heller family and they have no interest in continuing to farm the ground. The Larks and Mr. Noel also stated they had no interest in continuing to farm the ground.

The original lease was in the amount of \$58,247.00. The parties had previously paid \$11,649.40 as a down payment leaving a balance due of \$46,597.60. Mr. Matt Lark stated there was no crop insurance and they felt with their costs they could only pay a total of \$38,000.00. After the original payment of \$11,649.40 this leaves a balance of \$26,350.60. This leaves \$20,247.00 that will not be paid to the County from the original lease of \$58,247.00. The Commissioners felt under the extreme adverse circumstances the parties involved had been very co-operative and the Commissioners recovered as much as was possible for the County under these circumstances.

Commissioner Stevens made a motion to accept the total amount offered of \$38,000.00 minus the down payment already paid of \$11,649.40 leaving the balance to pay to the Auditor today in the amount of \$26,350.60. On November 8, 2013 this terminates any interest in the County Farm Crop Land Lease signed August 7, 2012 with Dave Lark and Cynthia Noel their heirs or assigns or Todd Heller's heirs or assigns as of November 30, 2013. Commissioner Armstrong seconded the motion. The motion carried 3/0.

The meeting adjourned 9:32 a.m.

Hancock County Commissioners

Commissioner Derek Towle, President

Commissioner Brad Armstrong, Vice President

Commissioner Tom Stevens

Attest: _____

Robin D. Lowder

Hancock County Auditor