

MINUTES
SPECIAL JOINT MEETING
FOUNTAIN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AND COUNCIL
APRIL 21, 2022
AT 6:00 P.M.

The following Fountain County Commissioners were present at the meeting: Brenda Hardy and Andrew Hall. Tim Shumaker was absent.

The following Fountain County Council members were present at the meeting: Dudley Cruea, Tom Booe, Bill Glover, Kelly Carlson, Dale Clawson, Jim McKee and Jim Hershberger.

Brenda Hardy called the meeting to Order and Andrew Hall lead the meeting.

Andrew Hall went through a few bullet points that the Council and Commissioners needed to be aware of and discuss.

- **Fountain County Highway Annex**

New computers were needed at the annex for it to function properly. They need 2 monitors, 2 towers, a booster and repeater to allow for the internet to work. The Council had voted to allow the Highway Superintendent to order the items needed and they would approve it after it was advertised. So far, they are functioning well at the Highway Annex.

- **ARPA FUNDS**

The Committee for allocating the ARPA funds consists of Brenda Hardy, Colleen Chambers and Dudley Cruea. Out of the 3.175 million, the County has received half of which has been receipted into fund 8950. So far, the Body Cameras for the Sheriff's Department have been purchased and paid out of the funds. Originally, there was a very limited number of things that the money could be spent on. As time went on, it was clear that a lot of counties were having a hard time spending the money, so they added items that they could spend the money on. The Commissioners have retained Barnes and Thornburgh to advise and help with the paperwork concerning the funds. The projects that have been received are as follows:

1. **Hillsboro Sewer Project – Pro-Flex**

The Committee had allocated up to \$450,000 towards the project. This project is necessary to help keep jobs in the County and continued revenue. Since Hillsboro received funds as well, the Council and Commissioners agree that they should have to help with the cost of the project. Hillsboro's intentions to use the money was for new water meters.

2. **Kingman Water Project**

Within the last week, they have requested the help of the County to assist in the Water Project to completely redo the water system in the town of Kingman. The water has high levels of contaminates in it. The total for the project is over \$3 million dollars.

3. **Courthouse Renovations**

Major Renovations of the Courthouse. The Judge has requested funds to have the upstairs done. Including the Jury Room, Courtroom, South Hallway, bathroom, IT room etc. The total cost is \$252,612. The quote includes Tradecraft, BT Reynolds, Rickets Electric and Keller PC. The Commissioners would like to bring contractors in to give estimates for each floor of the Courthouse. They would prefer to do the renovations in phases.

4. **Courthouse Annex @ Maple Corner**

The E-911 Dispatch and the Coroner's space is first priority in the building. The Council is requesting that as much funding out of the ARPA funds be used for remodeling as possible instead of using tax dollars. To help with this process, the Commissioners have signed a contract with Barry Ritter. He used to be a State Coordinator for dispatch and now has Contractual Services to give his recommendations, help with paperwork and the process of legally moving the dispatch center. His fee is \$150 an hour not to exceed 360 hours (\$54,000). Mr. Ritter would also take care of the conversation between Fountain

County and Warren County on how to create a new contract between the counties. They believe it should be 50/50 for everything or a percentage.

- **Cades Mill Covered Bridge**

The bridge is in need of major repair. Currently, they received a report from USI that is estimating the project to be 1.2 million dollars. This number is a lot more than anyone anticipated. The Historical Society would like it restored and had gotten a previous quote of 300,000-\$400,000 from CLR. The Historical Society and the Commissioners are going to meet with USI and see if they can bring that price down and possibly discuss other options for the bridge such as moving it to another location. By moving it, more people would be able to enjoy the bridge and appreciate its historical value.

- **Old Jail in Covington**

The quote for removing the tanks at the old jail is \$30,620. The work will be done by Roger Azar. This includes the removal of tanks, soil sample testing and engineering costs. If the soil ends up being contaminated, the cost will go up significantly. The City of Covington is still interested in the property. The Council and Commissioner both agree to give the property to the City, contingent on a few things. The County Attorney is drawing up papers and doing some research.

- **Enterprise Lease**

County Highway has received 4 trucks so far, the coroner received his van and Solid Waste will also be receiving a truck. In total, there will be 13 vehicles. The Commissioners feel that Enterprise has been very transparent and fair with the trade-ins. The Council is really not in favor of leasing the vehicles, but would like to see if it is a benefit to have the lease and if the County will save money. Andrew is going to put together some figures and present it to the Council. The Council expressed a desire to meet with Enterprise representatives. Everyone agrees that the vehicles need to be taken care of better. This expense is to come out of Other Repairs and Maintenance in the MVH budget. However, there may have not been enough appropriated. On other matters, Jason Lewis has been really good about communicating and knows who to contact at the State.

- **Smarts Landscaping**

The contract with Smart's Landscaping was signed on October 4, 2021. Andrew explained to the Council that they felt signing the contract to include mowing was the only way they were going to ensure that the snow removal was done and to avoid any liability. They went on to say that they advertised and had zero bids. They then called around and the only one that came back with a bid was Smarts. They agreed only if they could do the mowing as well. The Commissioners agreed. Dudley Cruea then gave his timeline of events and expressed that they need better communication between the Council and Commissioners. The Council was clear in August of 2021, that they would only fund snow removal. Since the contract is signed, the Council agreed to go along with funding the mowing for this year and reevaluate. There was never any doubt that the custodian did a beautiful job on the lawn, the Commissioners wanted to make that clear. They were only thinking of making sure the snow was taken care of and it had to include mowing to get that done. It was strictly about liability, not capability.

Andrew stated that contractual services could be paid by ARPA funds and bid out again for 2022-23. Joe Whitaker informed the Commissioners that Smarts had been there that day to mow and that they did a terrible job on the yard. They went way too fast and spun the tires in the yard. The yard was not evenly cut either. Andrew will be calling them to discuss this issue and have a conversation about what exactly they expect for the yard.

- **Custodial Duties / Maintenance**

Brenda Hardy is in the process of making new job descriptions for the Custodian and Courthouse Maintenance. Mowing is contracted for the Courthouse, but the old jail will still need to be done as long as the County owns it. Maple Corner will also need its grass taken care of. There have been some complaints in the Courthouse about cleaning and things not getting done properly as well. More discussion will be had at a closed meeting.

• **Bi-County Health Department Separation**

This was brought up just as a discussion. Fountain Warren Health Department is the only Bi-County Health Department in the State. A lot of their funding comes from grants. The billing between the Counties is a lot to keep track of. The contract between the Counties needs to be looked at to see if there is a better way of handling billing. Either 50/50 or Warren County pay a percentage each month. It has been stressed by the State Board of Accounts to reevaluate the contract. Warren County has also been talking of splitting and believe that they can afford it if they were to split. There are still a lot of questions that need to be answered before any decisions can be made.

• **Coroner Van Lease**

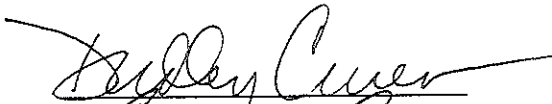




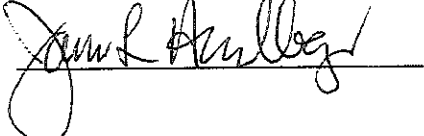
A motion was made by Jim Hershberger to approve \$1,037.00, to be paid out of the Council – Capital Projects line item, to cover the lease payment for the Coroner Van. This amount includes the equipment, delivery fee and partial lease payment. This motion was seconded by Kelly Carlson. Vote: 7-0

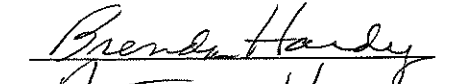
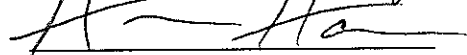
A motion was made by Andrew Hall and seconded by Brenda Hardy to close the meeting. Vote: 2-0

A motion was made by Tom Booe and seconded by Kelly Carlson to close the meeting. Vote: 7-0

COUNCIL

COMMISSIONERS

ATTEST: Colleen Chambers
Colleen Chambers
Auditor