

**MINUTES
FOUNTAIN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
DECEMBER 2, 2024
9:00 A.M.**

The following Fountain County Commissioners were present at the meeting:
Brenda Hardy, Aaron Fruits and Tim Shumaker.

MINUTES

A motion was made by Aaron Fruits and seconded by Tim Shumaker to approve the minutes of the Commissioner's meeting of November 18, 2024 as presented.

Vote: 3-0

CLAIMS 1-145 (\$419,837.60), Unpublished Claims and Payroll Claims

A motion was made by Tim Shumaker and seconded by Aaron Fruits to approve all claims.

Vote: 3-0

Paw & Claws – Contract for 2025

A motion was made by Aaron Fruits and seconded by Tim Shumaker to approve the contract in the amount of \$42,000.00 instead of the \$43,680.00 as requested by Paws & Claws. The Council budgeted \$42,000 for the 2025 Budget.

Vote: 3-0

Highway Christmas

A motion was made by Aaron Fruits and seconded by Tim Shumaker to approve the Highway Department closing at 12:00pm on 12/20/2024 for their Christmas party.

Vote: 3-0

Head Start

A motion was made by Aaron Fruits and seconded by Tim Shumaker to approve the Head Start preschoolers to Christmas Carol between 10:00 and 11:00 on 12/12/24 at the Courthouse.

Vote: 3-0

Rod Bannon-WEGA

Rod stated that they have been awarded the Lily and the Read Grant. The Read Grant is \$2 Million and the Lily Grant is \$4 Million. He said these will be used to finish the WEGA building, finish the startup market, the café and the commissary. Tim Shumaker thanked Rod for his hard work. Rod said that he has learned a lot on how to achieve grants and would like to work with other Fountain County cities and towns.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Ambulance – Garth Kagels

Garth said they have an opportunity to apply for the AFG Grant, which is an assistance grant. He would use the grant to purchase monitors, which would need to be bid out. He will be working with Tina Holmes on this project.

Highway – Travis Covault

Travis stated they have been working on Towpath Road. They have cleaned it up. The inlet has been cleaned up and they would like to continue with the outlet. They would like to keep cost down and do the work themselves. Travis asked if this would be okay or would they need to have this bid out? The Commissioner's agreed that they would be happy with the Highway

doing the work. The Highway has also been awarded the HSIP Grant. Jason will bring the contract to the next meeting so that the Commissioner's can look over it.

Clerk – Patty Smith

Patty said the election went well and she has certified the results. VSTOP will be visiting the county on December 12, 2024 at 11:00 a.m. to perform an audit. This is a 4-hour process and the public is welcome. Also, the swearing in for newly elected officials will be December 20, 2024 at 9:00 am. Carol Owens asked why it took so long to certify the results and Patty stated that it takes 10 days.

Tim Shumaker informed the public that Kent Minette will no longer be the County Attorney as of 12/31/24. The Commissioner's will start looking into hiring a new attorney for 2025.

**THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING WILL BE MONDAY,
December 16, 2024
AT 9:00 A.M.**

A motion was made by Tim Shumaker and seconded by Aaron Fruits to close the meeting.

Vote: 3-0

Brenda Hardy

Tim Shumaker

Aaron Fruits

Carol Owens

ATTEST