

MINUTES
FOUNTAIN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
April 18, 2022
9:00 A.M.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Henry Schmidt – Cades Hollow Covered Bridge

The Cades Mill Benefit was a success. They are reaching around \$250,000 in donated funds to go towards the restoration of the bridge. They also received the engineering report from USI and the amount is over \$1 million. When they received a quote prior from CLR, it was approximately \$400,000. He wants to be clear that they don't want any extras done. They want the bridge to be restored and safe to walk across. He is an engineer himself and there are things in the report that he doesn't think are necessary. The Historical Council would like to meet with Kent, Commissioners and USI to further discuss the plan for the Covered Bridge.

MINUTES

A motion was made by Andrew Hall and seconded by Tim Shumaker to approve the minutes of April 4, 2022 meeting as presented along with the Drainage Board Minutes of April 11, 2022. Vote: 3-0

CLAIMS 1-160 (\$272,053.23) and Payroll Claims

A motion was made by Tim Shumaker and seconded by Andrew Hall to approve all Claims. Vote: 3-0

Review & Acknowledge Treasurer's Bank Reconciliation and Monthly Comparison Report of Funds

A motion was made by Andrew Hall and seconded by Tim Shumaker to acknowledge the Treasurer's Bank Reconciliation for March, 2022 and Monthly Comparison Report of Funds. Vote: 3-0

Review & Acknowledge Clerk's Monthly Report for February, 2022.

A motion was made by Tim Shumaker and seconded by Andrew Hall to acknowledge the Clerk's Monthly Report for February, 2022. Vote: 3-0

March Report of Collections – as submitted:

A motion was made by Andrew Hall and seconded by Tim Shumaker to acknowledge the Report of Collections for the Clerk, Recorder and Sheriff. Vote: 3-0

Attica Public Library – Appointment

A motion was made by Tim Shumaker and seconded by Andrew Hall to appoint Karen Truelove to the Attica Public Library Board from June 1, 2022 to June 1, 2026. Vote: 3-0

TRANSFER REQUEST – Veteran Service

From: 1000-0012-33400 Printing and Advertising
To: 1000-0012-33930 Flags \$10.39
Bob Cates is asking to transfer \$10.39 due to the increase cost of the flags

A motion was made by Andrew Hall and seconded by Tim Shumaker to approve the transfer. Vote: 3-0

PHI Air Medical

Requesting dates, times and location for a meet and greet. Auditor has received a flyer plus a press release asking for permission to send to paper and where to send the flyers.

Garth Kagels suggested using the Med Shed landing pad for them to land and have an open house explaining the program. He will coordinate with Jill from PHI on date and time. It was also suggested that the PHI helicopter be at the Night Out Against Crime on July 28th.

Eastern Scanner – Rental Agreement

The County Attorney has reviewed the agreement and questioned paragraph #8, which pertains to personal property tax. He felt it should be included in the rental each month.

A motion was made by Andrew Hall and seconded by Tim Shumaker to approve the rental agreement for the Eastern Scanner. Vote: 3-0

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

AMBULANCE – Garth Kagels

He submitted a report to the Commissioners comparing the last 2 years of runs and how it has affected his budget. His budget has increased due to increase in price for medical supplies and staff. The number of runs has been mostly covered the budget.

HEALTH – Erich Haley

They have sent out a letter to Van Pelt. His property sits along I-74. He has reached out to the Health Department and they are working together.

HIGHWAY – Jason Lewis

They are working on light grading today. Also, they are going to start hauling out of Perry's Gravel Pit.

Two part time positions are available. He will be looking to hire someone and possibly make one full time by the Fall.

He also inquired about longevity pay. A couple of his employees will be retiring and have worked for the County for over 20 years. Since their anniversary date is after their retirement date, they wouldn't get paid the longevity as per the policy. He asked if there could be an exception or it be amended to include this type of situation.

Striping of County Roads has been a discussion for quite some time. The roads are extremely difficult to see at night time. White lines added would help tremendously. The main roads they are looking at are Stringtown Road, Stone Bluff, Kingman Road and River Road. He will be getting quotes.

LANDFILL – Greg Robison

The property in between the landfill and Fountain Central is putting in new tile. They needed access to it, so he allowed them to use the gravel road. He said they are not damaging anything, but asked them to stay away from the caps. McKinney Drainage is who is doing the work.

IDEM has requested information on wells to the Auditor and he will assist her.

SHERIFF – Terry Holt

Currently, there are 71 inmates. Thirty-three are Out of County. Chief Krout is working on a USDA Grant to purchase vehicles from Chevrolet.

Judge – Stephanie Campbell

There has been a couple questionable people in the courthouse soliciting information. The department heads have some concerns about the safety of

the employees within the building. Bill Lathrop is the security for the whole courthouse and would like to make sure he is meeting everyone's expectations. He would like to meet with the County Attorney and Judge to make sure he doing everything he can to make everyone feel safe. Also, a security meeting with the office holders would be recommended as well, to see what their needs would be.

In the basement, she found the original blueprints to the current courthouse. They need to be humidified, unrolled and preserved properly. The cost for this is around \$7,000. Brenda Hardy thinks there is another set of the blueprints in the Auditor's office. They would need to be compared to see which ones are the original. The Judge really thinks this is something that should be preserved properly.

County Farm

It has been found that there are no restrictions when it comes to selling the land to anyone. The County bought the land, it was not donated. Mr. Hoagland found the original deed.

Mowing – Tom Booe

He, along with Kelly Carlson, wanted to discuss the mowing situation for the Courthouse. The Council did not agree to fund the mowing portion of the contract with Smart's Landscaping. They feel if Rick is capable of mowing, then he should continue to do so. It was made clear by the County attorney that the contract includes mowing and that it will need to be paid for somehow. It is not a power struggle, but a liability issue. Tim Shumaker explained the commissioner's side of things, stating that they advertised and were unable to get any bids on snow removal. They then called Smarts and Smarts agreed to do it, only if mowing was attached to the contract. Tim stated that if they have to, they will get rid of a position to fund the mowing part of the contract. They are planning a tentative meeting to discuss this and other issues at a special joint meeting.

**THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE MONDAY, MAY 2, 2022
AT 9:00 A.M.**

A motion was made by Andrew Hall and seconded by Tim Shumaker to close the meeting. Vote: 3-0

Coveed Chambers
ATTEST

Brenda Hardy

Andrew Hall

Tim Shumaker