

**MINUTES
FOUNTAIN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MARCH 20, 2023
9:00 A.M.**

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Kris Brown – Farmer’s Market

She was seeking permission to hold the Farmer’s Market on the Courthouse lawn every Saturday again this year. A motion was made by Tim Shumaker and seconded by Brenda Hardy granting approval for the Farmer’s market.

Vote: 2-0

Covington Tree Board – Adam Tyler & Carol Freese

They have received a grant to replace, trim and plant additional trees. They are requesting permission to trim the tree near the memorial on the southeast corner of the courthouse square at no cost to the county. They would also like to fix the mulch around the trees at the Courthouse as it is too close to the tree base and will cause disease to the trees. The Commissioners gave their permission to do both.

MINUTES

A motion was made by Tim Shumaker and seconded by Brenda Hardy to approve the minutes of the joint meeting of the Commissioners and Council on March 6, 2023 as presented.

Vote: 2-0

CLAIMS 1-168 (\$157,788.44) and PAYROLL CLAIMS

A motion was made by Tim Shumaker and seconded by Brenda Hardy to approve all claims.

Vote: 2-0

Review and Acknowledge Clerk’s Monthly Report for February, 2023

A motion was made by Tim Shumaker and seconded by Brenda Hardy to acknowledge the Clerk’s Monthly Report for February 2023.

Vote: 2-0

Report of Collections – as submitted

A motion was made by Tim Shumaker and seconded by Brenda Hardy to acknowledge the Report of Collections for the Ambulance, Clerk, Health Department, Recorder and Sheriff for the month of February along with the Ambulance report for January.

Vote: 2-0

SMART CONTRACTORS INC – Estimate

A motion was made by Tim Shumaker and seconded by Brenda Hardy to approve the estimate for the mowing of the Courthouse lawn for 2023 in the amount of \$125 per occurrence for approximately 26 mowings per year dependent on weather conditions.

Vote: 2-0

E-911 DISCUSSION

The Commissioners had not heard from Warren Co since the last joint meeting with the Council. The Commissioners and Council agreed that Warren County should pay 50/50 and they would have an executive board of two Fountain County Commissioners and one Warren County Commissioners for any personnel issues. The E-911 Board would govern the operations. Warren County would pay \$325,000 per year. They sent an email to Warren County explaining that they needed an answer before today’s commissioner meeting. Warren County did not respond to the email. Barry Ritter said that a decision should be made by the end of the month for funding purposes from the State.

John Wolf, Jackson Township Fire Chief, stated they would be slowing down the response time to structure fires, if they made the split. He asked that they look into this and that all radios would have to be reprogrammed.

A motion was made by Tim Shumaker to separate from Warren County if they do not respond by March 24, 2023. The agreement would be \$325,000 per year; executive board of 2 Fountain County Commissioners and 1 Warren County Commissioner; E-911 Board would remain the same. If denied Fountain County would provide service to Warren County until December 31, 2023 and Fountain County will take control of E-911 on March 25, 2023 at 12:01 a.m. Brenda Hardy seconded the motion.

Vote: 2-0

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

SHERIFF

Roger Azar updated the Commissioners on the situation with the grinder/screen. If they build the building where the Sheriff would like it located a small lift station would have to be installed. Otherwise, it will be in the front lawn of the Jail. Sheriff Holt does not want it there.

HIGHWAY – Jason Lewis

Jason is getting the titles ready for the vehicles that are to be sold at the April 1 auction. He is missing two. A Commissioner will be on site to sign the titles.

He also informed the Commissioners that they were awarded a federal grant for Bridge #66. That will happen in 2028. Katie from USI has started the paperwork on the Scottsdale Road bridge. Roger Azar and Jason examined the bridge on Xavier Road. Tim Taylor will be pouring concrete at the site to repair the bridge. Jason and Roger will also be going to Tow Path Road to examine a bridge there.

INDOT will be doing work on SR 32, SR 234 and SR 341 this year. He will be going over the route detours with the State.

HEALTH – Jenny Eads

She reported that the refrigerator at the health department is still not working. The warranty is up next month. If the county goes with the GPHC (Governor's Public Health Commission), they will be very limited on space. She would like to meet with the Commissioners in regards to this and the space at the new annex. She does not want to see her department split up into two areas as they work together as a whole.

EMA – Joe Whitaker

Joe Whitaker updated the Commissioners on the grants. He has applied for a grant to update the cameras at the courthouse. He has also put in his request for the salary reimbursement grant and should have that in the next two months.

COUNCIL – Jeff Fishero

Jeff Fishero stated that he was able to go to the health department. The staff showed him the operations and duties of the health department and staff. He said it was very helpful and had a better understanding of the department.

MCDONALD DRAIN

Roger stated that he had received a quote to repair the drain. The contractor will be putting the dirt from the drain onto the farmer's field which will help with the price. The County attorney stated that they would have to go through the formal bid process. Kent will get with Roger to start the process.

TOWN OF HILLSBORO

Roger Azar has someone who submitted a bid for the sewer project at Hillsboro. The project will have to be put up for bids.

**THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE
MONDAY, APRIL 3, 2023 AT 9:00 A.M.**

A motion was made by Tim Shumaker and seconded by Brenda Hardy to close the meeting.

Vote: 2-0

Coleen Chambers
ATTEST

Brenda Hardy
Tim Shumaker