

Owen County Board of Commissioners
Minutes-April 19, 2023

Meeting was called to order by President Gary Burton with the Pledge of Allegiance and Opening Prayer given. Members Present: Gary Burton, Bob Curry, and Joel Lowe. Also, attorney Dana Kerr and auditor Sheila Reeves. Public Sign in sheet attached for permanent record.

A motion to approve the minutes from the regular meetings on March 22nd and April 3rd was made by Curry; seconded by Lowe. Motion carried 3-0.

A motion to approve Payroll-\$277,451.19 was made by Curry; seconded by Lowe. Carried 3-0.

A motion to approve Regular Claims-\$274,915.51 was made by Lowe seconded by Curry. Carried 3-0.

A motion to approve Out of Cycle Claims-\$115,430.34 was made by Curry; seconded by Lowe. Carried 3-0.

Copies of the Payroll, Absence Balances, Monthly LOW Financial Report, Cumulative Docket Summary, and the Commissioners Funds were provided for review.

Old Business-None

New Business-

SRI Contract addendum was presented for review and approval. Attorney Kerr gave a brief overview of the contract also relating to the one they had previously signed one on February 6, 2023. The 2023 Tax sale will be held on September 6, 2023, at 10am. A motion to approve was made by Lowe; seconded by Curry. Carried 3-0.

A second SRI Contract was presented for a Commissioners Tax Sale Certificates for delinquent properties.

A motion to approve Resolution 2023-003 with a minimum bid of \$1000 for a parcel was made by Lowe; seconded by Curry. Carried 3-0.

911 Director Kathleen Lamb presented a scope of work for an Owen County LMR System Assessment (Land/Mobile Radio) due to the deficiencies with design and communication difficulties of the current system. Kerr read the Task 1 System Assessment list and agreed and recommended that numbers 1 & 2 as the best option at this time. Ms. Lamb was related that a grant has been applied for with the Community Foundation-\$30000. (pending) Concerned with no funds being appropriated she was instructed to go to council for funding and that they would sign the contract after that.

She next related that she had met with the FEMA representatives and had related the concern with the buildings sound issues; specifically the tornado incident. She was instructed to include the amounts in her storm assessment costs. The building had been looked at and it was determined that the walls/plywood would have to be taken down and insulation put in. Updates will be given at the next meeting.

Department Vehicles-Commissioners confirmed the out of cycle approval of two vehicles that had been purchased by the Sheriff's Dept and Coroner's Office with a motion made by Curry; seconded by Lowe. Carried 3-0. A motion for purchase/approval of the Health Dept. vehicle was made by Lowe; seconded by Curry. Carried 3-0.

Highway-Greg Melton & Chad Walker

A folder for the 2023 Community Crossings Roads was presented for Fidler Road, Beech Church Road and Johnson Road with Bid Packet requirements. A motion to approve was made by Curry; seconded by Lowe to advertise and be presented at the May 17th meeting.

An update that Sandhill Bridge would be open by the end of the day.

Melton related that they had met with FEMA and Jack White to collect information relating to the Tornado and Storm damage costs/expense from March 31st and several days following. He will have an estimated total to White by the end of the day.

Melton asked for approval of the pavers going out on Sandhill Rd., Wasatch Lake Rd., Franklin Rd., Pea Ridge Rd., Patricksburg Rd., and S. County Line Rd. The motion was made by Lowe; seconded by Burton. Carried 3-0.

He next presented that a bridge in the county was shared also with Monroe County. It was agreed that they would repair the south end and that Owen would do their own end at the same time.

Next they presented Road Inventory additions to be added:

A motion to add Hickory Nut-.73, Dallas Rd-.22 was made by Lowe; seconded by Curry. Carried 3-0.

A motion to add Blue Gate Drive-.37, Wall Street-.17, and Limestone-.3 were all made by Curry; seconded by Lowe. Carried 3-0.

A correction on Farmers Road to add .07 was made by Curry; seconded by Lowe. Carried 3-0.

Melton requested to work with Kerr on safety issues for the Amish on Beech Church to Orman Road.

Culross Road was discussed and the possible options at this time regarding the closure of the road/bridge.

A motion to temporarily close the bridge on Culross Road was made by Burton; seconded by Lowe. Carried 3-0

He next related that there was a disgruntled person(s) with the work on Little Flock Road. He noted that it was mainly due to the weather. He also invited members to go look at Concord Road.

Elected Officials-

Probation Director Donna McElroy presented a letter of request to apply for the 2024 Owen County Community Corrections Grant for a total amount of \$883,809.00. A motion to approve and sign copies of the letter was made by Curry; seconded by Lowe. Carried 3-0. She also introduced Natasha Pointer who will be taking over as the new Probation Director upon her retirement.

Auditor Comments-

Reeves asked for clarification on the County Attorney following comments he made at the council meeting that he worked for the Commissioners. Specifically, does she need to retain her own attorney. Burton related that by state statute the attorney works for the commissioners. The prior attorney got overwhelmed by working with all the departments and basically is what caused him to leave. They have no problem with Kerr working with the departments, but they don't want him to get overworked and that he is here to help us all. Kerr related that he works for the county executives, however the Council is its own entity, and he will assist with commissioners' approval. She asked if he would be able to assist the council with the tax abatement requests that are pending; agreed by members to do so. He talks with the Highway a lot and Planning Dept. regularly. Departments are also to let the commissioners know when they are contacting him and be respectful of his time and not bombard him.

Reeves next asked about the Time Management issues that still are of concern after the last payroll program was rescinded. Burton feels that if it is time management only it is a waste of time if it is not attached to payroll. Discussion on bringing new proposals before them and/or in a joint work session with the Council. Costs are of concern; she had originally brought them Right Stuff and later LOW proposals for Time Management. It is still an issue from two years ago. As the Auditor she has asked for something to be done. A proposal from LOW was for that only and was expensive, Burton adding it was ridiculous. She added that if she has to ask for someone at this point; it would be LOW. \$18000 a year is better than nothing and there are pros/cons with all the companies. She added that she has brought them proposals, and nothing has been done. Departments will agree that there are still issues too. Lowe agrees that proposals need to be presented and work at it in chunks. Burton asked Polly Chesser what she thinks about the cost of \$68000 upfront and then \$18000 a year for just time management. Why would we want to spend a hundred thousand dollars a year. She related that it has been investigated and its like putting a square peg in a round hole and that Paycor even agreed it would not work with our financial system. Burton said Reeves said she was willing to do the data entry. He doesn't think we are going to find anything compatible with LOW and they've made that very clear. Reeves added that there are three programs that work with LOW and that the first company she brought to them was compatible with LOW. Nicole VanDerMoere noted LOW provides us Financial Software and Tax Software and that the hundred thousand dollars isn't just for payroll. Burton asked Reeves the cost

which was explained it was only around \$50000 initial setup and annually \$18000 so it would only be around \$50000 if it was for time management and payroll software. LOW has suggested starting with only the time management to begin with, it is not \$100000. It ended with Reeves bringing proposals.

Lowe said he is willing to oversee an Opioid Committee with a six-member committee to oversee the unrestricted funds that have been received. Cindy Rotman was present and related that they have a group with the State Mental Health Agency. Burton related that they had received a letter from the Attorney General's Office and that they had oversight of the funds. Lowe will work with together with them to make sure they are sharing resources and ideas. A motion was made by Burton to appoint Lowe to be over the Opioid Committee; seconded by Curry. Carried 3-0. Burton noted that funds may possibly be used for the coroner a vehicle.

No further discussion was made. A motion to adjourn was made by Burton; seconded by Curry. Carried 3-0.