

LINCOLN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Board of Equalization Meeting

June 25th, 2018

Rebecca Wood, Chairman; Roy Hubert, Commissioner; Terry Zech, Commissioner; Sarah Thomas, Clerk for Minutes.

9:30 am- Chairman Wood opened the meeting

Terry Pennington is appealing his assessment evaluation of his property made by the Lincoln County Assessor.

Clerk Farnworth spoke with Terry Pennington; she explained what he would need to do in order to contest assessment; he was not in attendance. He would like to bypass Assessor Jones and speak to the Board directly about the evaluation. Burden of proof is on Mr. Pennington to show that the assessment was incorrect. Assessor Jones explained the process she used in order to reach the assessment.

Commissioner Hubert asked Assessor Jones if there were any like properties to Mr. Pennington's that may be used as comparison. Assessor Jones offered to show Commissioner Hubert the table that she used in order to reach the assessment, the same table that was used with all properties.

Clerk Farnworth explained that Mr. Pennington will be in attendance at next week's meeting to discuss his appeal.

Clerk Farnworth reviewed the rules and regulations of the BOE to the commissioners.

10:00 Chairman Wood adjourned the BOE Meeting and convened to the Regular Meeting

Regular Meeting

June 25th, 2018

Rebecca Wood, Chairman; Roy Hubert, Commissioner; Terry Zech, Commissioner; Sarah Thomas, Clerk for Minutes.

9:30 am-10:00 am- Board of Equalization

10:00am- Chairman Wood convened to the Regular Meeting

Claims and Minutes reviewed.

Commissioner Hubert made a motion to accept the Regular Meeting minutes for June 18, 2018 as presented. Commissioner Zech seconded. Vote unanimous; motion carries.

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Commissioner Zech made a motion to accept the minutes from the Animal Ordinance Public Meeting from June 18, 2018 as presented. Commissioner Hubert seconded. Vote unanimous; motion carries.

Commissioner Zech had some questions regarding the claim from ACE Hardware. Commissioner Hubert also had some issues with the charges made of some tools by Jarett Gray, a pipe wrench for \$29.99 and a pipe lock for \$16.99. Jarett is a contracted employee and should provide his own tools, therefore the commissioners have decided to not pay for these two particular charges.

Commissioner Zech made a motion to accept the claims in the amount \$35402.12 excluding the two items from ACE Hardware in the amount of \$46.98, making the total claims \$35,355.14. Commissioner Hubert seconded. Vote unanimous; motion carries.

10:30am Executive Session 74-206(1)(f) Legal

Chairman Wood made a motion to go into Executive Session pursuant to IC 74-206(1)(f), Legal. Commissioner Hubert seconded. Vote; Commissioner Hubert, aye; Commissioner Zech, aye; Chairman Wood, aye. Vote unanimous in favor, meeting adjourned to Executive Session.

10:50am-Chairman Wood adjourned Executive Session and re-convened the Regular Meeting.

Correspondence:

Letter from IAC; Unemployment is down, the county will not have to pay in this year as there is enough in reserve.

Letter from FEMA; they approved Lincoln County's mitigation plan. The plan will have to be submitted again in 5 years

Letter from Chief Kelley on the generator issues; letter read into the minutes. Commissioner Hubert gave an update on his progress with Magic Valley Electric about moving the generator; they are willing to disconnect the generator but will not hook up the gas once moved. A general contractor will have to be hired to connect the gas line. It will be moved on the 27th. Dave Davidson had spoken to the city about moving the generator for us. Once the generator is disconnected for the electrical and gas lines, the city will be able to move it.

11:00am- PILT Conference Call Update

Commissioner Hubert gave an update on the call. Some discussion of the call was the underpayment of several counties in the time frame of 2015-2017, Lincoln County included. There is a class action lawsuit filed concerning the situation. Commissioner Hubert inquired about what it would take to join in this class action lawsuit and if Lincoln County decided to join, would it hamper further payment from PILT. They assured the commissioner it would not affect future PILT payments. E. Scott Paul clarified some legal issues surrounding this. He encouraged the commissioners to look further into certain items such as, will this lawsuit be resolved in a timely manner and if there was a counter offer, would that offer be worth the cost.

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September 14th is the final date to decide if we would like to join in the lawsuit. The prosecutor felt that it would be in our favor to join the lawsuit, but encouraged the commissioners not make a decision until they have looked further into it.

Commissioner Zech made a motion to allow the Chairman of the Board and the Prosecuting Attorney to sign the settlement on the drug dog. Commissioner Hubert seconded. Vote unanimous; motion carries.

11:15 am- Animal Ordinance Review

There was an overwhelming turn out from the public. Chairman Wood reviewed some of the highlights of the meeting.

Commissioner Hubert would like to change the ordinance expanding the amount of time a dog registration is good for. He would like to see it be moved to a 3 year registration instead of a 1 year registration.

There was discussion about adding to the collar provision that the ability to chip an animal in lieu of a collar is acceptable. The prosecutor felt that if the commissioners wanted to change this provision, then another draft of the ordinance would be necessary, as well as another public meeting in order to discuss the change to the provision.

The prosecutor will draft another version of the ordinance that includes the change to the collar provision as well as the change to the registration provision.

11:30 am- Beverage License Renewal- Valley Wide Coop and Eagle's Nest

Commissioner Hubert made a motion to approve retail alcohol beverage licenses for: Valley Wide Cooperative, 103 N Rail, Shoshone; Valley Wide Cooperative, 805 S Greenwood, Shoshone; Eagle's Nest, Dietrich. Commissioner Zech seconded. Vote unanimous; motion carries.

11:35 am- Correspondence

Chairman Wood received a letter about magistrate judge commission for review.

11:36 am-Old Business:

Website hosting- Went live on Wednesday; still work to be done, but is navigational. In the process of doing some finishing touches to it.

Courthouse ADA ramp- Clerk Farnworth would like to know what the commissioner would like the ADA ramp to be made of; discussion on the material aluminum vs. wood; ascetically more pleasing with wood but the amount of upkeep a wood ramp would require is a concern. It was also suggested to use Trex deck which would look good and would last. Commissioner Zech is going to evaluate the different options and address the options at a later time.

Roof Repair- Moeller was supposed to look at the roof last Tuesday but will actually be coming up today to place that bid.

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ITD Meeting- Chairman Wood was not able to get letter into the meeting; she will finish the letter and get it to them.

Flipping the Switch- June 27th. Chairman Wood and Commissioner Hubert are planning on attending.

Congressman Simpson-VFW- will be here August 21st.

Letter about the 4th District Special Meeting on July 18th.

Lincoln County Care Center monthly expenses-Commissioner Zech asked about the counties involvement with the Care Center. Chairman Wood and Commissioner Hubert explained that the care center leases the building from the county; but also being morally responsible of how the elderly of the community are treated because of their position of County Commissioner. The county is also in charge of bigger maintenance issues involving the building.

11:57am- Chairman Wood adjourned for lunch

1:00pm- Executive session Indigent IC 74-206(1)(d)

Commissioner Hubert made a motion to go into Executive Session pursuant to IC 74-206(1)(d), Indigent. Commissioner Zech seconded. Vote; Commissioner Hubert, aye; Commissioner Zech, aye; Chairman Wood, aye. Vote unanimous in favor, meeting adjourned to Executive Session.

1:15pm Chairman Wood adjourned the Executive Session

1:15 pm- County Budget- Clerk Farnworth

Clerk Farnworth gave a brief overview of county funding, specific funds, and the functions of those funds to help educate Commissioner Zech.

1:25 pm- P&Z Budget- Clerk Farnworth

Clerk Farnworth explained the biggest change to this budget is that there will no longer be a employee expense; other than that, most of the budget stayed the same.

1:29 pm- Indigent and Public Defense Budget- Clerk Farnworth

Indigent's expenses have gone up this year and Clerk Farnworth expects the expenses to be well above what was budgeted for the current year. Indigent salary will be going up because Mary Davidsons full wage will now be in the indigent line; as well as employee insurance. The wage and insurance use to be split between P&Z and Indigent, but Mary will no longer be doing P&Z.

Salary line is down for Public Defense; reduced the coordinators hours. Originally allotted 10 hrs a week for this position, but has proven that 5 hrs a week is sufficient. The public defense grant helped with most expenditures. Public Defender's contract and Conflict Public Defenders wages are the only things that cannot be paid by the grant.

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Indigent budget for the next fiscal year is significantly increased.

Agreed to donate to the Good Samaritan Clinic again.

1:45pm- Prosecutors budget- Prosecuting Attorney, E. Scott Paul

Prosecutor Paul presented his budget and analysis. He increased Extra Help line by \$5000.00 for expert witness fees, as well as another \$5000.00 for personal investigator; suggested keeping \$5000.00 in coroner budget for things such as inquests.

He cut postage line by half; budgeted \$1200.00 in equipment line for a computer for Loretta.

He increased salary line by \$10,000. He presented a packet that outlined his points and arguments to support the increase; asked the commissioners to look through the packet thoroughly before making a decision; would like to have further discussion on the topic next Monday after the commissioners have had time to review.

Prosecutor Paul discussed the need to have a line in the probation budget for the SCRAM and GPS units.

1:50 pm Auditor Budget-Clerk Farnworth

Clerk Farnworth put some extra money in the Extra Help line because Judy is retiring in December and will have to train her replacement; travel is down.

2:00pm Sheriff's Office Budget- Rene Rodriguez

The sheriff's office put together a local softball game and auction to help raise money for a fundraiser. Good turn out; not sure how much money was raised at this point.

Sheriff Rodriguez discussed the two main issues he is having with his department: overload/burn-out and overtime hours; the officers are being overworked because of the lack of personnel. The sheriff would like to add 5 new positions: a Code Enforcer, Transport Officer, Civil Deputy/ Bailiff, Patrol Corporal and Detective. The Sheriff felt that by adding these positions, it would not only help alleviate these major issues within his department, but could divert any potential legal liabilities that could arise by having overworked and burnt out deputies.

Clerk Farnworth felt that adding 5 new position was not something the county budget could handle; but offered an alternate suggestion. The current administrative assistant is only working 25 hrs a week; Clerk Farnworth suggested possibly bumping the administrative assistant's hours to 30 hrs a week and adding the bailiff/civil deputy position. The Code Enforcer position is still a topic of discussion but will be potentially funded by several entities instead of fully funded by the county.

Commissioner Hubert is concerned about the cost of adding an entire position; not just the wages, but also the cost of all the equipment that position would require.

Clerk Farnworth suggested putting this revision in the budget draft and see what it would do to the overall budget; commissioners agreed to this.

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Further discussion on wages and training the potential new positions may require.

The sheriff increased the budget for cell phones, eliminating the broadband service in replace of using their cell phones as a hot spot.

Increased the software budget ; going away from Spillman program and going to Zuercher Program, the same program that SIRCOMM is using; after the initial purchase of the system, the annual fees will be \$3300.00 a year for maintenance and upkeep.

The sheriff's office had decided to no longer use the ICRMP's policing manual. They felt it was too vague; they are creating their own manual. This decreased the budget from \$1500 a year to \$250 for printing.

There is an increase in the budget for uniforms; all bulletproof vests, with the exception of one, are expired; creating a huge liability for the county; each vest is about \$1000.00.

Small Equipment line is now going to be named Patrol Equipment.

The sheriff would also like to replace body cams for the officers; they are currently using Vievue cams; 3 of the 8 cameras do not work. Vievue will not maintain them because the cameras are no longer made, they also will not switch them out. The sheriff would like to stay with Vievue because the officers are familiar with the system. Largest cost would be storage of videos. Initial cost \$15,560, for a 25-camera system. That would be 12 dash cams as well as 12 body cams, and 1 backup camera.

Capital budget- Asked for \$6000.00 for new equipment; that is including the specialized equipment for the code enforcer. There is a grant that Payson has access to that may be able to fund some of this.

Chairman Wood explained Zuercher is possibly 10 months out at SIRCOMM.

3:05 pm- Commissioners Budget- Clerk Brenda Farnworth

Because there will be a new commissioner coming on this fiscal year, the budgeted wage is down. Travel line was brought down because the commissioner will not have to travel as far for training this year. The workman's comp numbers have not been received.

Commissioner Zech expressed some concern about the commissioners receiving a 3% raise after the larger raise they received the previous year; he is concerned about the issues this might cause with public relation. He suggested a 20% decrease. Chairman Wood informed the commissioner that if he would like to make an official proposal he would need to be added to the agenda and present the proposal to the board. Chairman Wood and Commissioner Hubert further explained that the reason behind the increase is because of the amount of hours the commissioners put in, more so than past commissioners.

Further discussion on the commissioner's budget.

Reviewed the requested donation payouts.

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Clerk Farnworth has not received the ambulance or fair budget yet, but expects to receive them next week. Clerk Farnworth asked if the commissioners would like to add some money to the capital line for any projects they would like to see done in the upcoming year. Chairman Wood asked to look into the camera system update and possible carpet replacement.

3:45 pm- Mary Davidson- P&Z Issue

Back in March 2016, Johnny Urrutia asked to divide his already owned 20 acres to 15 and 5. It was approved at the time. Mr. Urrutia later decided to sell that home, but that home shared a well. He had a survey done, changed the 15 and 5 to 8 and 12, it was done properly by a surveyor, and recorded with the assessors; but was never approved by P&Z, therefore being out of compliance according to the ordinance. He is now in the process of selling the land but the new owners will not be able to build anything on the property because of this not being compliant. Because of this issue, the financing company will not approve the loan. The financing company is wondering if the property was changed back to the original 15 and 5, would that be in compliance. Mary is leaving this decision to the commissioners.

Commissioner Hubert suggested putting out a public hearing notice for a meeting to discuss what options may be available to rectify this. If Mr. Urrutia gets all of the proper paperwork in by next week, the hearing can be held on July 23rd for a variance evaluation.

4:02 pm- Property Assessment- Assessor Linda Jones

The assessor turned over a net evaluation of the assessments.

Commissioner Hubert made a motion to accept the Uniform Assessment Evaluation for the 2018-19 year. Commissioner Zech seconded. Vote unanimous; motion carries.

4:05 pm-Chairman Wood made an executive decision to push the Board Report review to next week.

4:06 pm-Chairman Wood adjourned the regular meeting.

Respectfully,

Sarah Thomas, Clerk for Minutes



Rebecca Wood, Chairman

Attest:



Sarah Thomas, Clerk for Minutes