

Thomas County Commission – REGULAR

November 9, 2020

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Mike Baughn called the REGULAR Commissioners Meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. in the Commissioners room of the Thomas County Courthouse on Monday, November 9, 2020 with Commissioner Brad Flipse, Emergency Management Director David Becker, Judge Kevin Berens, Commissioner Elect Brian Luedke, County Treasurer Layn Bruggeman, EMS Director Dain Carmen, Assistant EMS Director Don Morton, and 2nd Assistant EMS Director Kaylie Kraft and Commissioner Francis Britton, County Clerk Shelly Harms, Deputy Appraiser Kathy Cunningham, I.T. Director Brent Mariman and Register of Deeds Lora Volk attending via GoToMeeting.

AGENDA: *Commissioner Brad Flipse moved to approve the agenda as amended to include the following: Court relocation, asbestos removal in Appraiser's office, proposal presented by David Becker; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Francis Britton (via GoToMeeting); with no further discussion the motion carried unanimously.*

COURT RELOCATION: Judge Kevin Berens appeared before the Commissioners to let them know that he has been proactive in looking for office space with success. Southwind Plaza can accommodate the Courts needs with a six (6) month lease at \$14,500 with additional cost for moving computer equipment, office equipment and files. Modular trailers would cost approximately \$100K. Commissioner Flipse feels Willdan Energy should share the expense because Thomas County was promised the work being done at the Courthouse would not be an inherence to any of the county offices, but that has proven incorrect. *Chairman Mike Baughn moved to authorize for temporary move with Road & Bridge assisting with the move of the courts and with the expenses coming out of Fund 101; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Francis Britton (via GoToMeeting); with no further discussion the motion carried unanimously.* Chairman Baughn will reach out to Willdan's regarding the shared cost in relocating the Courts. Judge Berens thanked the Commissioners.

ASBESTOS REMOVAL IN APPRAISER'S OFFICE: Chairman Mike Baughn announced the asbestos removal in the Appraiser's office has been moved to April. Commissioner meetings will remain at the Courthouse.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DOOR REPLACEMENT: Emergency Management Director David Becker appeared before the Commissioners to request purchasing security doors for his building and submitted the following proposals:

1. Akme Maintenance, LLC: Access control panels for up to 4 doors, material, and labor = \$6,760.20
2. All Systems: Access control panels for up to 3 doors, material, and labor = \$14,131
3. Fire Alarm Specialist, Inc.: Access control panels for up to 4 doors, material, and labor = \$18,044

Mr. Becker has the funds in reserves and by approving this request less keys would be issued out as it would be a matter of changing the access code. Commissioner Flipse additional keys and rekeying would probably be cheaper than this request. *Commissioner Francis Britton moved (via GoToMeeting) to accept the \$6,760.20 proposal from Akme Maintenance, LLC which would provide a log of those accessing the Emergency Management Building; the motion was seconded by Chairman Mike Baughn so as to get the motion on the table; with no further discussion the motion died with Commissioner Francis Britton voting AYE (via GoToMeeting) and Chairman Mike Baughn and Commissioner Brad Flipse voting NAY.* Commissioner Flipse is not opposed to revisiting this after the first of the year, there is a lot on the Commissioners table right now (starting wages, retaining building maintenance director, Criminal Justice Center and Courthouse renovation projects).

PROCLAMATION DECLARING "ELECTION WORKER APPRECIATION DAY": *Commissioner Brad Flipse moved to approve the Proclamation in declaring Monday, November 16, 2020 as "Election Worker Appreciation Day"; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Francis Britton (via GoToMeeting); with no further discussion the motion carried unanimously.* Copies of the Proclamation will be provided to each Election Worker, Commissioner Brad Flipse suggested "Certificates of Appreciation".

AP PAYMENT REGISTER(S): *Upon review of the invoices Chairman Mike Baughn moved to approve the following AP Payment Registers: Noxious Weed - \$4,500 / Criminal Justice Center - \$11,025 / Courthouse General - \$109,628.04 / Road & Bridge - \$8,256.52; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Francis Britton (via GoToMeeting); Chairman Baughn has a couple questions of the AP Clerk and will address those at a later date; with no further discussion the motion carried unanimously.*

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2020 COMMISSION MINUTES: *Commissioner Brad Flipse moved to approve the Friday, October 30, 2020 Commission Minutes as prepared by County Clerk Shelly Harms; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Francis Britton (via GoToMeeting); with no further discussion the motion carried unanimously.*

HEALTH INSURANCE (FAMILY): EMS Director Dain Carmen appeared before the County Commissioner to give them a brief bio on 2nd Assistant EMS Director Kaylie Kraft with Thomas County and her goal to further her education and become a Paramedic in 2021. Ms. Kraft spoke about her concerns with not being able to provide health insurance for her husband due to the high premium cost, endured a lot at work (employee matters), sacrificed time off. Ms. Kraft has looked on the Health MarketPlace and for \$800 month and a \$8,000 deductible she could not afford that out-of-pocket expense. Sherman County pays 100% of family insurance, she stated she wants to stay in Thomas County. Mr. Carmen asked if there could be any amendments to the current BCBSofKS plan. The Commissioners realize the effect this has on the employees and wants them to know that they are going to look seriously in our current plan and what if anything they can do. County Clerk Shelly Harms stated that we are under the current plan until July 2021, not sure how amending the group plan would effect our Reserve Funds and would reach out to Julie Yarmer with Freedom Claims and get her on one of the Commissioners upcoming meetings to meet with them and any Department Heads. Also, County Clerk Harms stated that this has been an ongoing issue for over thirty (30) years and with looking at making changes to starting wages which would effect everyone's current wages (not budgeted for 2021), Building Maintenance Director (not budgeted for 2021) doesn't feel the Commissioners can move to a family plan in 2021 or possibly another five (5) years.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: *Commissioner Brad Flipse moved to go into EXECUTIVE SESSION at 10:06 a.m. for five (5) minutes with Chairman Mike Baughn, EMS Director Dain Carmen, Commissioner Elect Brian Luedke and via telephone conferencing Commissioner Francis Britton and County Clerk Shelly Harms to discuss non-elected personnel matters (personnel retention) and to return to OPEN SESSION at 10:11 a.m.; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Francis Britton (via telephone conference); with no further discussion the motion carried unanimously.*

OPEN SESSION: *With no binding action Commissioner Brad Flipse moved to return to OPEN SESSION at 10:11 a.m. in the Commissioners room; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Francis Britton (via telephone conference); with no further discussion the motion carried unanimously.*

BUILDING MAINTENANCE DIRECTOR POSITION: Chairman Mike Baughn stated with equipment in multiple county buildings, needed inspections, regular maintenance, and overseeing multiple custodians which currently falls on the County Clerk a job description is in front of each of you. Chairman Baughn would like Commissioners Flipse and Britton to review the job description, determine salary, responsibilities, and office space be made available. Custodians would report to the new Building Maintenance Director. Chairman Baughn would like to advertise the position in December with the position starting in January 2021. First meeting in December should formulate idea on how to move forward.

POLL COUNTY EMPLOYEES ON HEALTH INSURANCE (FAMILY PLAN): The Commissioners would like to poll the county employees to see who do NOT want the expense of family insurance, who is satisfied with what the county currently offers, and who would prefer higher wages instead of the county offering family insurance.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS: Chairman Mike Baughn would like to consider projects in January – February 2021 for funding the Building Maintenance Fund, five (5) year capital improvements should be done by statute.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS: Department reports received, Gilmore & Bell recording fees \$65 for Farmers & Merchants Bank (Willdan Project), and Chairman Mike Baughn will inform Willdan Energy of the Courts upcoming move out of the Courthouse. Prisoners are now scheduled to move to the new Criminal Justice Center January 17, 2021.

ADJOURN: *With no further business Commissioner Brad Flipse moved to adjourn at 10:32 a.m.; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Francis Britton (via GoToMeeting); with no further discussion the motion carried unanimously.*

Attest:

Shelly A. Harms, County Clerk

Shelly A. Harms
Dated: November 16, 2020



Thomas County Board of Commissioners

Mike Baughn
Mike Baughn, Chairman

Brad Flipse
Brad Flipse, Member

Francis Britton
Francis Britton, Member