

County Board  
October 13, 2016

The County Board of Jasper County met in regular session on Thursday, October 13, 2016. The meeting was held in the Board Room, County Office Building in Newton. Members present were Miller, Kerner, Leffler, Heltsley, Weber, Swick, Haskett, M. Smithenry, Hickox, J. Smithenry. Bierman and Fehrenbacher were absent. The meeting was called to order by proclamation according to law by Sheriff Rick Britton. A moment of silence was observed and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Sheriff Britton.

During public comments Weber noted the death of Larry Casey, long time Jasper County resident who was active in tourism for the county. Larry's volunteer work will be greatly missed.

Heltsley moved to amend the agenda to add the Gavel Program to new business and the payback to departments in the county for the salary increases. J. Smithenry seconded the motion. The motion carried on a voice vote.

Committee Reports:

The Road and Bridge Committee met on October 7. Swick moved to approve the Bridge Engineering Agreement with Charleston Engineer and the North Muddy Township Bridge Engineering Agreement with Connor and Connor. Haskett seconded the motion. The motion carried on a voice vote.

The Sheriff's Committee met on October 5. Under the union contract agreement, if an employee uses more than 180 sick days, their extended leave must be approved by the County Board. There is an employee of that department which will use more than the allowed time on a medical leave. The secretary to the Sheriff is on maternity leave. The Sheriff has obtained a bid for the forfeited guns in storage. The bid is \$7,000. He is looking for more bids. A full time correctional officer has been hired. She came to us from Lawrence County, trained and ready to work. Lawrence County is asking for a reimbursement of \$1,839.73 for training costs. The Sheriff is recommending paying this since that is a savings to the county. Heltsley moved to pay Lawrence County \$1,839.73 for training costs for the new correctional officer. Hickox seconded the motion. The motion carried on a voice vote. Since the committee meeting, the Sheriff has obtained a second quote for the forfeited guns in the amount of \$7,500.

The Finance Committee met on October 10. Under old business the current auditor had been asked for a quote to extend her contract. During that time, another company expressed a desire to bid, after seeing the current auditor's prices. There was discussion about mistakes made by both the current and the former auditor. Haskett moved to extend the current auditor's contract at the rates offered last month. Miller seconded the motion. The motion failed on a roll call vote with Fehrenbacher and Bierman absent. Yes votes were cast by Miller, Weber, and Haskett. No votes were cast by Kerner, Leffler, Heltsley, Swick, Hickox M. Smithenry and J. Smithenry. Some discussed they

still have some questions about the audit contract and feel there does not have to be a hurry to settle this as there is still one year on the current contract.

Leffler moved to approve the new insurance prices for the coming year. Property casualty price is \$136,436. The worker's compensation price is \$111,802. M. Smithenry seconded the motion. The motion carried on a voice vote. Swick moved to approve the drug court resolution charging \$10 per felony or misdemeanor case, to help offset the cost of drug court. Hickox seconded the motion. The motion carried on a voice vote. Heltsley moved to change the meeting dates for the Finance Committee and the County Board in November due to the election. Finance will meet on November 14 and the Board will meet on November 17 at the usual times. J. Smithenry seconded the motion. The motion carried on a voice vote. Leffler moved to use the Illinois County Risk Management Trust for the payment of the Unemployment Insurance for the County instead of the State of Illinois. This will realize the County a 27% savings in unemployment insurance costs. Hickox seconded the motion. The motion carried on a voice vote.

The Budget Committee met on September 22. All members were present. Work was done on the 2016/2017 County Budget. The committee still has some questions for a couple of departments. The budget is now on display until the next board meeting. Heltsley made a comment that he still desires some money to be added to the Circuit Clerk's budget. Hickox commented the committee encouraged the department heads to cut all of the costs possible.

The Building Committee met on October 6. The contractor is having some difficulty drilling through the walls in the Courthouse to install the heat vents. The janitor would like to purchase a ladder. He was advised to obtain quotes and bring to the next meeting. The committee discussed a price for panic buttons at the Health Department. Terry Smithenry bid \$9,000 to repair the cap on the Courthouse steps and part of the sidewalk on the East side of the building. Miller moved to approve the bid. Swick seconded the motion. The motion carried on a voice vote. Hickox moved to get a quote on new locks for the Courthouse and County Office Building. M. Smithenry seconded the motion. The motion carried on a voice vote.

The Ambulance Committee met on October 5. The committee discussed the power load system and the repairs to the parking lot. Two part time employees have been removed from the roster.

The Animal Control report is in the board packet.

The Health Department report is in the board packet.

J E D I met on October 6.

The State's Attorney discussed a program suggested by Judge Siemer for use in the payment of fines. It is an on-line based program to assess the fees to the appropriate funds. The cost of the program is \$2,000 per year. The Circuit Clerk would not have to

figure the court costs per case. She will have to purchase a printer to use in the courtroom. The State's Attorney feels the \$2,000 is a good rate for Jasper County. Heltsley moved to purchase the gavel program for the next year. J. Smithenry seconded the motion. The motion carried on a voice vote.

Haskett moved to approve the County Clerk's report. M. Smithenry seconded the motion. The motion carried on a voice vote.

Heltsley moved to change the date of when the pay raises are added back to the department budgets. The department heads need to agree on the amounts that will be added to their budget line. Bigard will get the information to the department heads on Friday. Leffler seconded the motion. The motion carried on a voice vote.

Miller moved to approve the minutes of the September meeting. M. Smithenry seconded the motion. The motion carried on a voice vote.

Haskett moved to allow the claims. Swick seconded the motion. The motion carried on a voice vote.

Leffler moved to adjourn at 8:40 pm. J. Smithenry seconded the motion. The motion carried on a voice vote.

Linda Huth, Jasper County Clerk