

County Board  
November 17, 2016

The County Board of Jasper County met in regular session on Thursday, November 17, 2016. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Proclamation according to law by Sheriff Rick Britton. Members present were Miller, Fehrenbacher, Kerner, Leffler, Heltsley, Weber, Swick, Haskett, M. Smithenry, Hickox, J. Smithenry and Bierman.

The board observed a moment of silence. Sheriff Britton led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Bierman asked for Public Comments. Circuit Clerk Jamie Blake commented on the proposed budget asking for money to be added to her budget. She feels her budget just covers salary. She is claiming there was substantial increase in other areas of the budget but not hers. She wants \$20,000 added. If she does not get the answer she wants now she will address the issue with the new board. Her office is a busy office two days a week with court and feels the board does not understand what they do. Now she is short-handed due to one person going part time. Next year she will be busier with the new e-file system and will need extra staff. Blake said she got \$5,000 added back to her budget but feels most offices got more.

The State's Attorney presented plaques to the five board members retiring from the Board. Joe Bierman, Chairman served 16 years on the board, with 2 years as chairman. Mark Smithenry served 10 years on the board. Everett Miller served 10 years on the board. Jim Weber served 12 years on the board, with 2 years as vice chairman. Dale Haskett served 20 years on the board. Sixty eight years of service was recognized.

Miller moved to approve the agenda. Heltsley seconded the motion. The motion carried on a voice vote.

Committee Reports:

The Road and Bridge Committee met on November 7. The County Highway Engineer is retiring on November 30. The office manager will be appointed as acting engineer. Fehrenbacher moved to approve the appointment of Meinhart as acting engineer for 100 days or until a new engineer is hired. Hickox seconded the motion. The motion carried on a voice vote. IDOT will be notified of the appointment.

There was no Solid Waste meeting but the new dumpster schedule is in the Board packet.

The Hiring Committee met to begin the hiring process to replace the County Engineer. The committee met just before the County Board meeting tonight. They are ready to begin the advertising for the position.

The Sheriff's Committee met on October 26. Danielle Locey was hired as a correctional officer. She was trained and ready to work. The Sheriff's union contract is ready for approval. When the sale of guns that are stored as evidence is completed, the funds from

the sale will be used for new service vests. The Sheriff is also looking for a grant to help with the vest cost. One officer took a job with the City of Newton. The Sheriff will post that position or hire within the department. The Sheriff will purchase a new squad car before the end of this fiscal year. He is looking to have the officer's hand guns cleaned and serviced. Leffler moved to approve the purchase of a new squad car if there is money available in the budget. M. Smithenry seconded the motion. The motion carried on a voice vote.

The Finance Committee met on November 14. Jesse Yager was approved for snow removal for the Jail and County Office Building. Barlow Lock and Security will rekey the County Office Building and the Courthouse at a cost of \$1125. They will install the panic buttons at the Health Department and move the fire panel for a price of \$1500 for the panic buttons and \$400 to move the fire panel. Miller moved to allow Barlow to do this work at these prices. Weber seconded the motion. The motion carried on a voice vote. Swick moved to allow the Treasurer to transfer \$16,000 of Personal Property Replacement tax monies to IMRF and transfer \$70,000 Tort and Personal Property Replacement tax for part of the cost of Health Insurance. Fehrenbacher seconded the motion. The motion carried on a voice vote. The \$7,500 administrative fee from the Health Department to the General fund will be paid this week. Hickox moved to approve the Tax Sale resolutions. J. Smithenry seconded the motion. The motion carried on a voice vote. Kerner moved to approve the appointment of Bill Hoffeditz as Public Defender. Weber seconded the motion. The motion carried on a voice vote. Miller moved to approve the bid from Jesse Yager for snow removal at the County Office Building at \$55 per removal and \$30 at the Jail per removal. Weber seconded the motion. The motion carried on a voice vote.

The reorganizational meeting date was set for December 1 at noon. The meeting will be held in the County Board room.

The Budget Committee noted the budget had been laid over for public viewing for 30 days. In answer to the Circuit Clerk's request, it was noted several lines of her budget had no monies spent so the committee felt the amount of her budget was adequate. The budget was cut due to the hiring freeze, as the extra money in her budget was added for extra help years ago and no one was ever hired to use those funds. The County has been under a hiring freeze since early 2015. Blake stated she spent other funds to help stretch her budget. She feels her deputy clerk's salary has not been correct for years. One employee received a substantial salary increase earlier this year. Hickox moved to adopt the budget as presented. Weber seconded the motion. The motion carried on a roll call vote with Miller, Fehrenbacher, Kerner, Leffler, Weber, Haskett, M. Smithenry, Hickox, J. Smithenry and Bierman voting yes. Heltsley and Swick voted no.

The Building Committee met on November 3. The dispatch area of the jail has bad underlayment and flooring. Roy is pricing new flooring.

The Ambulance Committee met on November 2. The power load system is tabled for now. The parking lot project is tabled for now. Discussion was held on student ride

along. Ride alongs were not allowed in the past due to liability issues. The County liability insurance has said yes, they will cover this, but if there will be an accident, yes, premiums could increase. Discussion was also held on employees holding classes at the Ambulance department. It was discussed who would teach these classes and the cost. Heltsley moved to allow riders and classes at the Ambulance Department. Leffler seconded the motion. The motion carried on a voice vote.

The Animal Control Report is in the board packet.

The Health Department Report is in the board packet.

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

The JEDI meeting was held at the new Chamber office. The Economic Development Director will hire a full time secretary. The group toured the new building.

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

Chairman's Comments: Jasper County is a member of the Illinois South Tourism Board. Jane and Larry Casey represented Jasper County for several years. Larry passed away recently, but Jane has agreed to continue her work with the board and has an offer of help from another volunteer.

The Committee Service claim sheets are due in the County Clerk's Office by November 23. J. Smithenry said he would like to make a motion to pay all who have turned their claims in and not make the full board wait on those who are late.

Swick moved to enter closed session at 8:10 pm. Weber seconded the motion. The motion carried on a roll call vote with all present voting yes.

The Board entered open session at 8:40 pm.

Weber moved to approve the retirement compensation of Richard Patterson, County Engineer. Kerner seconded the motion. The motion carried on a voice vote.

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

Leffler moved to adjourn at 8:42 pm. J. Smithenry seconded the motion. The motion carried on a voice vote.

Linda Huth, Jasper County Clerk