

County Board
February 11, 2016

The County Board of Jasper County met in regular session on Thursday, February 11, 2016. The meeting was held in the Board Room, Jasper County Office Building in Newton. Members present were Miller, Fehrenbacher, Kerner, Leffler, Heltsley, Weber, Swick, Haskett, M. Smithenry, Hickox, J. Smithenry and Bierman. The meeting was called to order by proclamation according to law by Sheriff Rick Britton. Sheriff Britton led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Bierman asked for Public Comments. Susan Lindley, representing Jasper County asked the board members if anyone around the table could tell her the amount of surplus money the county has in the bank. She feels there is nine million dollars in surplus monies in the county accounts. She told the board she worried about how to get peoples taxes paid. She feels the County is not a bank and feels the County should not be having any money in the bank. People are asking for raises and not getting any results. She is very upset about the amount of money in the bank. People are not sleeping at night worried about how to pay their real estate taxes. She understands that everyone needs a cushion but feels like she has been raped. Susan was asked if she was aware the County fiscal year has just begun. We have ten months to go in this year. Susan commented that she sells fuel at her job and talks to people who come into the store she manages. No other area has taxes like we do. She closed by stating that she wonders how the board members can sleep at night.

Ray Diel, Jason Boothe, Kevin Kern, and Alex Snedeker all representing Snedeker Risk Management presented the County with a dividend check from the HOPE Trust which provided health insurance for the employees of the County of Jasper. Brian Leffler, insurance committee chairman received the check in the amount of \$7,247.18 from Snedeker's. The HOPE Trust was formed in 2012. Jasper County was a charter member. Linda Huth, County Clerk is the chairman of the Board of Directors.

M. Smithenry moved to approve the agenda. Kerner seconded the motion. The motion carried on a voice vote.

Committee Reports:

The Road and Bridge Committee met on February 8. The County Materials Tax resolution needs to be passed at this time. Kerner moved to approve the resolution to put the County Materials Tax question on the ballot at the March 15 election. M. Smithenry seconded the motion. The motion carried on a roll call vote with all members present casting yes votes.

The Sheriff's Committee met on January 27. They approved the bills. Two correctional officers are off work on sick leave and one has resigned to take a new job. One full time correctional officer has been hired. Part time salary was discussed. The Sheriff will

attend a conference and a training in the next month. He is looking at a possible food service for inmates.

There was a combined Finance and Road and Bridge committee meeting on January 27. The meeting was in closed session and no action was taken.

The Finance Committee met on February 8. Susan Lindley addressed the committee on different ideas about how the county should collect taxes. The jail renovation was discussed. The last estimate on the project was too high and the project will be bid again. Smoke detectors and security cameras for the Ambulance Department was discussed. Smoke detectors can be installed for \$1945 with an \$18 per month service fee. Security cameras can be installed for \$2985.00. Swick moved to approve the installation of smoke detectors and security cameras. Heltsley seconded the motion. The motion carried on a voice vote. Miller moved to approve the repairs to the men's restroom in the basement of the County Office Building in the amount of \$981.00. Hickox seconded the motion. The motion carried on a voice vote.

United Counties Council of Illinois has asked member counties to approve a juror compensation resolution opposing recent changes in the make- up of jurors for a civil trial. Weber moved to approve the resolution. Heltsley seconded the motion. The motion carried on a voice vote.

M. Smithenry moved to purchase 3 side chairs for the Conference Room at a cost of \$189.00 each. Swick seconded the motion. The motion carried on a voice vote.

McCoy Heating and Air Conditioning bid \$7,637.91 for the final furnace upstairs in the Courthouse. Haskett moved to approve the bid. Miller seconded the motion. The motion carried on a voice vote.

The Building Committee met on February 4. Jesse reported on the furnace project at the Courthouse. Jesse will be moving to Toledo, Ohio in the summer. He will give the board a month notice before he leaves. There are three door lock sets in the County Office Building that need to be replaced. The light on the flag at the Jail and the County Office Building need to be replaced. Hickox moved to purchase the lock sets for the County Office Building. M. Smithenry seconded the motion. The motion carried on a voice vote with 11 yes votes and 1 no vote. The committee discussed the 911 renovations at the jail. Leffler moved to approve the purchase of LED lights for the flags at the County Office Building and the Jail. Swick seconded the motion. The motion carried on a voice vote.

The Ambulance Committee met on February 3. They discussed the part time employee's salary. The web site has been discontinued due to non-use. The department is running help wanted ads for full time paramedics. The department has received an inheritance from a former patient. The department head would like to remodel the classroom and dedicate that remodel to the former patient. The committee discussed video surveillance cameras and smoke detectors. The new handbook is nearly complete. The department head has hired one full time paramedic. Swick moved to appoint Daniel Alzate as the

Department Manager for the Ambulance Department effective February 11, 2016.
Leffler seconded the motion. The motion carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes.

The Animal Control report is in the board packet.

There was no EMA meeting.

The JEDI annual meeting was February 3. Louis Ochs received the Annual Economic Development person of the year.

The Health Department report is in the board packet.

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

New Business:

The Health Department has several people owing money for services received. Over 100 bills are outstanding. That is too much for the State's Attorney to open small claims. The department would like to hire Credit Collection Partners. The State's Attorney needs approval to draft an ordinance to allow the debts to be collected. Weber moved to allow the State's Attorney to draft the ordinance. Kerner seconded the motion. The motion carried on a voice vote.

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

Chairman's Comments: CEFS is looking for unemployed young people. They can teach job skills to young people.

Kerner moved to allow the claims. Heltsley seconded the motion. The motion carried on a voice vote.

Leffler moved to adjourn at 7:50 pm. J. Smithenry seconded the motion. The motion carried on a voice vote.

The next meeting is March 10 at 7:00 pm.

Linda Huth,
Jasper County Clerk