

Hamilton County Commissioners' Meeting
P.O. Box 1167
Syracuse, KS 67878
Meeting Place - Commissioner Room
Hamilton County Courthouse
June 9, 2015
8:30 a.m.

Keith A. Puckett, Chairman
John Simon, Vice-Chairman
Randall C. Braddock, Commissioner
Michael W. Lewis, Commissioner
Nikki Schwerdfeger, Commissioner
Rob Gale, Attorney
Angie Moser, County Clerk

Alan Hanson

Commissioner Puckett called the Meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. with all Commissioners present. Attorney Gale is available via telephone if needed.

AGENDA: Commissioner Lewis moved to approve the Agenda as presented. Commissioner Braddock seconded the Motion and it was unanimously approved.

PRIOR MINUTES: Commissioner Schwerdfeger moved to approve the June 2, 2015 Commissioner Meeting Minutes as presented. Commissioner Lewis seconded the Motion and it was approved with four "ayes" and one abstention.

PUBLIC CONCERNS: Commissioner Lewis discussed postponing interviews for the Community Development Director and Superintendent of Rural Operations open positions until the County's current valuation numbers are fully reported. Commissioner Schwerdfeger voiced concerns of not hiring a Superintendent of Rural Operations. Also discussed implementing a County wide hiring freeze.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY: Marcia Ashmore and Eddie George, Historical Society Board Members, presented their department's 2016 budget request.

KEVIN WHITE: Mr. White with Foley Equipment, and Dave Ferro with Caterpillar Financial, discussed that Grader unit #405 has payments of \$51,000.00 due in August, 2015 and a balloon payment of \$66,000.00 due in August, 2016. Mr. White presented an option to trade unit #405 for a new 140M2 Grader that would eliminate the \$51,000.00 payment in 2015 and the \$66,000.00 balloon payment in 2016. Annual payments on the new 140M Grader would be \$27,462.00 a year with first payment due August, 2016. Commissioner Braddock moved to enter into a seven year Lease Agreement with Caterpillar Finance for a 2014 140M2 Grader (serial #R9M00515) for annual payments of \$27,462.00 with the first payment due in August, 2016. Commissioner Lewis seconded the Motion and it was unanimously approved.

PADDY SHITKRA: Mr. & Mrs. Shitkra, and Donna Hutcheson with Hutcheson Real Estate, informed the Commissioners Mr. Shitkra is interested in purchasing the Syracuse Inn. Mr. Shitkra informed he plans on totally renovating the hotel, which will require him to temporarily shut down the property, other than the possible rental contract of six rooms with the contractor working on the school project. Mr. Shitkra asked if any tax abatement would be available while he is in the renovation stage and also during the reopening stage. The Commissioners informed they will discuss possible tax abatements and report back to Mr. Shitkra.

KERSTIN MITCHELL: Ms. Mitchell, Rural Operations Secretary, presented the agreement she received from KDOT for the sign project for the minor roads for the South part of the County. Commissioner Braddock moved to approve the contract from KDOT for the sign project for the minor roads in South part of the County. Commissioner Lewis seconded the Motion and it was unanimously approved.

HAMILTON CO. HOSPITAL: Patrick Geschwind, Interim Hospital CEO, Patrick Stauffer, Hospital Staff Accountant, informed their Auditors will give the 2014 audit report at the July, 2015 Board Meeting. Mr. Stauffer discussed concerns with the vendor change of the electronic record system, and the complex issues in which that change has created. Mr. Geschwind discussed his request for no-fund warrants in the amount of \$88,268.48 and the anticipated Medicare reimbursement, which averages around \$200,000.00 per year. Mr. Geschwind added that he feels the long term care is not being used to its capacity in not fully using both wings. Mr. Geschwind would like to improve the attractiveness of our long term unity without creating huge capital expenses. Commissioner Schwerdfeger asked if it would be possible to have the Hospital maintenance mow the yard at the Ambulance Shed. Mr. Geschwind asked Alan Hanson, EMS Director, to contact the hospital maintenance department to ask about mowing.

COUNTY CLERK & TREASURER: Chris Squire, Hamilton County Treasurer and Steph Simon, Deputy Treasurer, presented their department's 2016 budget request. Angie Moser, Hamilton County Clerk, presented the Election, County Clerk, County Commissioner, Employee Benefits and the General Fund 2016 budget requests.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Commissioner Braddock moved for a 10-minute executive session for matters pertaining to attorney-client privilege with the Commissioners, County Clerk and the County Attorney. Commissioner Simon seconded the Motion and it was unanimously approved. The executive session began at 11:23 a.m. and the regular meeting resumed at 11:33 a.m.

Commissioner Lewis moved to authorize Commissioner Puckett to discuss the Neighborhood Revitalization Program option with Mr. Shitkra and Donna Hutcheson. Commissioner Braddock seconded the Motion and it was unanimously approved.

5-YEAR PLAN: The 5-year plan was reviewed.

ROAD PROJECT LIST: The Road Project List was reviewed.

ROAD COMMITTEE REPORT: Commissioner Braddock reported that the crew is blading roads and graveled Road G.

ADDITIONS & ABATEMENTS: After review, Commissioner Simon moved to approve Additions and Abatements No. 140426 through 140429. Commissioner Lewis seconded the Motion and it was unanimously approved.

APPOINTMENT TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION: Commissioner Braddock moved to appoint Jess Schwieterman as a County representative to the Planning Commission for an unexpired two year term ending May 31, 2017. Commissioner Lewis seconded the Motion and it was unanimously approved.

WARRANTS: After review and discussion, Commissioner Simon moved to approve the Warrants in the amount of \$43,062.26. Commissioner Lewis seconded the Motion and it was unanimously approved.

HOSPITAL NO-FUND WARRANTS: After review, Commissioner Braddock moved to approve the Series A Non-Taxable No-Fund Warrants in the amount of \$88,268.48. Commissioner Schwerdfeger seconded the Motion and it was unanimously approved.

COMMISSIONER REPORT: Commissioner Schwerdfeger discussed the grant available to purchase a new fire truck for Coolidge. Commissioner Schwerdfeger also discussed recruiting additional volunteer fire men/women. Commissioner Lewis moved to implement a County Wide hiring freeze for 30 days, to be reviewed monthly. Commissioner Simon seconded the Motion and it was unanimously approved. Commissioner Schwerdfeger discussed her concerns of how the Base One Chemical was applied on Road B.

As there was no more business to come before the meeting, Commissioner Lewis moved for adjournment. Commissioner Braddock seconded and the meeting was adjourned at 12:11 p.m.

ATTEST:

County Clerk

Commissioner

Commissioner

Commissioner

Commissioner

Commissioner