

Public Property & Law Enforcement Committee Meeting  
May 9, 2017 at 9:00 am  
County Board Room

Present: Donna Williamson, Norm Couture, Jerry Teague, Ken Wheeler, Gary Kabasa

Others: Jeff Beirl, Lori Schmidt, Pete Russo, Mick Brennan, Heather Schutte, Kathy Schutte

Donna Williamson called the meeting to order at 9:00 am and roll call was taken. Motion by Jerry Teague, second by Gary Kabasa to approve the April 4, 2017 meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Pete Russo talked about the upcoming concerts scheduled to be held in Highbridge in July and August. Pete stated that three (3) wells on the property have to be fixed according to the DNR or else they need to be tagged "not for human consumption". Donna Williamson stated that John Jokinen is the owner of the property and that the promoter is unhappy; however, the County's concerns are about the wells because they are contaminated. Jeff Beirl stated that the wells are not contaminated, that there is a problem with the well casings, which COULD result in contamination. Jeff stated that the promoter has the option to bring in bottled or potable water or some other source of drinking water and that the well could be tagged that they are not to be used for human consumption. This is something that the Large Assembly Committee will have to watch. Kathy Schutte stated that she has been getting e-mails regarding the event to be held in July and concerns that people have. Jeff Beirl stated that we have not even received an application for this event at this time.

Mick Brennan handed out the Sheriff's report for review and discussion. Mick stated that the jail population has not diminished as currently there is 56 inmates, 16 on monitor and 12 boarded out – which is getting harder and harder to find somewhere to board our prisoners. Mick stated that the part-time Investigator has been working out well and there are so many cases that he will be requesting a 2nd full time Investigator in his 2018 budget. The new radios are in Dispatch, Jim Hnath and Missy Moravetz have been to Civil Process training, the US Marshall will be doing an inspection of the Courthouse, and all Jail officers have done their re-certification. Mick stated that there are a total of six (6) pending lawsuits at this time – four (4) in the Chris Bond suit, the Westmore case and the one (1) for improper incarceration. Motion by Ken Wheeler, second by Pete Russo to approve the Sheriff's report as given. Motion carried.

Dorothy Tank stated that finances from the July 2016 storm are slowly starting to trickle in. There was a change in the project worksheets which had slowed the process down. Jeff Beirl asked if the money to the Townships would be coming in 2017 and then they could repay the County – as to which Dorothy Tank stated that she thought that it would be repaid in 2017. Discussion followed regarding the four (4) homes that were impacted by these storms. Dorothy Tank stated that she has asked the County Highway Department about demolishing two (2) of these homes as this is the only option for these two (2) homes.

Dorothy stated that she is putting together a Public Information Officer Training which will be held on May 23rd - May 24th at WITC. Regarding addressing, Dorothy stated that she was caught up as of last month but more have trickled in. She will need to order another 100 posts which will be expensive, but will be repaid when someone receives an addressing sign. Motion by Gary Kabasa, second by Pete Russo to approve the Emergency Management Report as given. Motion carried.

Mark Miller proceeded with the Custodial report. The work plan for 2017 was reviewed and discussed. Three (3) new air conditioning units have been purchased; he is just about done with the insulating of the pipes in the attic. Mark stated that there is a leak in the southeast corner which he has been unable to locate and that Nasi Construction will be sending someone to take a look for it, they will also be providing an updated quote on replacing the entire roof. Mark also stated that the spare motor for the boiler needs to be repaired and that he needs to find someone to do this which may end up being in Duluth.

Jeff Beirl stated the he did send an e-mail to the City regarding the MOA (Memorandum of Agreement) on the ice angel in hopes of getting a new agreement in place, at this time he has not heard anything back from them.

Discussion followed regarding the ordinance on animals in the County. Callae Hyde asked several months ago to have this ordinance updated in order to do something about large animals when they get out of their fenced in area. This ordinance is extremely similar to the old ordinance; it just enlarges the scope of animals. Discussion followed. Motion by Norm Couture to approve the ordinance and to move it forward to the full Board for action. Second by Pete Russo. Motion carried.

Jeff Beirl informed the Committee that the County spent \$1,000.00 on an Option to Purchase 20 acres on Farm Road. Jeff stated that we have up to one (1) year to make a decision. The entire cost to purchase would be \$7,000/acre. Jeff told the Committee that there is a lot to discuss in the very near future and that he is considering having a Board retreat to talk about the County's future.

Vouchers were reviewed at this time. Motion by Jerry Teague, second by Pete Russo to approve vouchers for payment. Motion carried.

The next meeting was scheduled for June 6, 2017 at 9:00 am in the County Board Room.

Motion by Pete Russo to adjourn with a second by Donna Williamson. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 10:25 am.

Lori Schmidt  
Administrative Assistant