

February 26, 2014

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met for a regular session on February 26, 2014, in the Lincoln County Courthouse. Present are Commissioner Tony Berget, Commissioner Ron Downey, Commissioner Mike Cole, Executive Assistant Bill Bischoff and Assistant Election Administrator Leigh Riggelman.

9:30 AM: Tim Orthmeyer concerning the Airport Grant – Tim's arrival was delayed by weather. The meeting was postponed until later in the day pending arrival.

10:00 AM: Susan Farmer – Clerk of Court concerning employee replacement - Susan Farmer and Patty Noble are here with a memo to Commissioners asking to replace an employee who is leaving in May. The position is currently a 30 hour position and the request is to downsize to a 24 hour position. Ms. Farmer brought statistical information with her concerning the caseloads and a letter of support from Judge Wheelis. Case loads are increasing every year but the statistics presented did not include the number of cases that have been reopened. Commissioner Cole asked what agency has added additional duties to the Clerk of Court's Office. Ms. Farmer replied that most came down from state level and it was just the additional requirements and duties that needed to be taken care of and that cross-training has made the office increasingly efficient – hence the decrease of the number of hours needed by a new employee. Commissioner Berget posed the question as to what she might do she had to absorb an 8-10% budget cut. Ms. Farmer said that she would need to consider before answering definitely. The talk turned to lack of morale and trying to keep her team members moving smoothly and the things that employees have already lost: no cost of living wage increases and loss of FLEX benefits. A cut of 10% from her budget would be approximately \$34,000 per Commissioner Berget, but nothing is set in stone for the time being. The Commissioners agreed that they would like to postpone making a decision until next week pending further discussion.

10:30 AM: Audit Contract – Troy Dispatch: Commissioner Berget mentioned that it is a joint City/County dispatch so the audit should require both entities agreements. Lincoln County would be willing to pay for the audit, but they need the consent of the City of Troy as well. Mr. Bischoff suggested that the Mayor of Troy be contacted. Commissioner Downey moved that the County would pay for and conduct the audit pending City of Troy approval and it carried. Commissioner Downey called the City of Troy Mayor, Darren Coldwell and he said that they are agreeable to the audit the County should proceed.

11:00 AM: Revett Mine Update: Larry Erickson & Doug Miller are here from Revett. Doug says that drifting is ahead of schedule. Late 3rd quarter or early 4th quarter to go into limited production in the north sea beds. They are averaging about 30 feet of progress a day and are leaving waste rock underground to provide stability in already mined areas. Estimates of production by the end of the year are about 120 tons a day. They estimate that they should be employing approximately 110 people by the end of the year compared to the 60 currently employed. Water issues were discussed and pumping water out will continue. Commissioner Downey asked about Rock Creek Mine and was told that it's progressing but a couple of studies still need review.

1:30 PM: Judge Stormy Langston: Stormy Langston and Pat Good from Justice Court 2 are here and Krista Nemeroff from TVN is on speakerphone. Judge Langston is asking to replace Pat Good's position. Commissioner Berget mentioned budget cuts and wanted Ms. Langston to keep it in mind. Pat works 20 hours a week and she doesn't believe that she can do with an employee working less than 20 hours a week. Commissioner Cole asked Pat exactly what she does and she told him: take money, issue citations, works with computer system to manage money, issuing bench warrants, scheduling and extensive data management. She provides relief for the full time position as well as working to keep work current as needed. Commissioner Cole moved to keep the position and replace the employee and it carried. Bill Bischoff will give her job description to Job Service to begin replacement process. Krista asked about the meeting last week with Stormy that had been cancelled. Commissioner Berget said they put it off per the advice of the attorney until the lawsuit is settled.

Tim Orthmeyer, Morrison and Maeirle: Tim brought more information and papers for signatures on the Airport Grants. Commissioner Berget signed a Letter of Transmittal for grants that had already been approved in an earlier Commissioner meeting. The new projects are for the Troy Airport and the Eureka Airport.

1:48 PM: ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES:

There is a Tax abatement for Lance and Wendy Kelly for alley taxes to them in error. They are being refunded \$142.77. There is a Tax abatement for Ronald and Janis Fontaine for Property that should have been split between two parties. They will be refunded \$362.89. Commissioner Downey made a motion to accept both tax abatements and it carried. The commissioners read the minutes of the February 12, 2014 meeting but did not approve pending clarification of one of the entries. The commissioners read the minutes of the February 19, 2014 meeting. Commissioner Cole moved to approve the minutes as written and it carried.

2:00 PM - PERSONNEL ISSUES: The Commissioners made the motion which was passed unanimously that a position within the County that may become vacant be advertised as soon as due process is observed and if the position does become vacant.

There was a discussion of a stress related issue with an employee.

2:18 PM: The **meeting was adjourned.**

LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Anthony Berget, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Leigh Riggleman, Clerk of the Board