

Hamilton County Commissioner's Court

Regular Session

Tuesday, April 20, 2021

9:00 a.m.

Hamilton County Commissioner's Court met in regular session on Tuesday, April 13, 2021, at 9:00 a.m. with the following members present: County Judge Mark Tynes, Commissioners Lloyd Huggins, Keith Curry and Dickie Clary. Commissioner Johnny Wagner was absent. Tynes called the meeting to order and a quorum was established. Tynes led the invocation and pledges.

The only agenda items to address concerned improvements at the Sheriff's Department.

Discussion between Sheriff Caraway, Chief Deputy Young, and the Court ensued.

Dailey & Wells had proposed certain electronics upgrades for the Sheriff's Department. In the process of considering those upgrades, the Court received notice of impending funding from the American Rescue Plan Act, as well as funding available through the CTCOG. It had also come to the attention of the Court that certain communications equipment at the Department was in critical need of repair or replacement. Other considerations included whether private citizens may have access to communications trailer at Fair Park, as well as the need for coordinating communications between police departments in all cities in the County, all EMS departments and Fire departments. Finally, the Court must consider a long-term solution including whether to continue with analog system or update to a digital system.

Sheriff Caraway and Chief Deputy Young related the following needs of the Department in order to properly serve the County:

- **Hand-held radios;**
- **In-car radios;**
- **Emergency buttons on all radios;**
- **Communications/Emergency Management personnel (a person who fully understands technology);**
- **Service contract on the generator at Fair Park;**
- **Erection of an additional building with controlled access at the Department to house Dispatch operations and store sensitive property, to be called the Vehicle Impound Lot; and**
- **Separate insurance policy for vehicle storage.**

The expiration date for funds is August, 2021, for CTCOG funds, and December,

2024, for American Rescue Act funds.

Sheriff Caraway and Chief Deputy Young agreed to solicit bids from three vendors: Dailey & Wells, Motorola, and L3 Harris, and to present those bids to the Court on or before May 24, 2021.

Clary agreed to speak to Rountree Towers regarding the possibility of erecting a new communications tower in the Shive/Pottsville area. The Court also requested that the following be included in all bids: whether the system will cover all communications issues, whether the system will be analog or digital, and whether the system will integrate all departments.

In the interim, the Court will attempt to obtain firm guidelines from the U.S. Treasury Department on the permitted use of funds from the American Rescue Act.

The Court adjourned at 10:35 a.m.

County Judge

Attest: _____
County Clerk