

Hamilton County Commissioner's Court

Regular Session

Tuesday, May 10, 2022

9:00 a.m.

Hamilton County Commissioner's Court met on Tuesday, May 10, 2022, at 9:00 a.m. with the following members present: County Judge Mark Tynes, Commissioners Johnny Wagner, Keith Curry, Lloyd Huggins and Dickie Clary. Tynes called the meeting to order and a quorum was established. Tynes led the invocation and Tynes followed with the pledges.

Richard Layne spoke to the Court requesting that the two towers under consideration be funded from the general reserve fund.

There were no budget adjustments.

The Court considered the following consent agenda:

- A. Minutes from previous Commissioner's Court meetings**
- B. Approve Departmental reports**
- C. Approve payroll in the amount of \$74,225.41; bills in the amount of \$188,989.96, excluding fuel bill**
- D. Certificates of continuing education - None**
- E. Application(s) for Culvert - Precinct 1, Kenneth Stewart**
- F. Building and Use Request - None**
- G. Bonds/Deputations - None**

Tynes made a motion to approve the consent agenda, with the exception of the fuel bill, and Huggins seconded. The Court approved the consent agenda, with the exception of the fuel bill, unanimously.

The Court then considered the fuel bill in the amount of \$8,716.45 which had been excluded from the Consent Agenda. After discussion of the fuel consumption shortfall, Huggins moved to accept, rather than approve, the fuel bill of \$8,716.45, Curry seconded, and the motion passed 4 to 1, with Clary voting against.

There were no Hamilton County personnel changes to report.

Clary reported that there were leaks in the Courthouse roof after rains, and roofing company was addressing and repairing as leaks were discovered.

Hamilton County Treasurer Cox reported that the County had \$4,469,181.04 in cash at the end of February, 2022.

Central Counties Services appointed Judge James Lively to its Board of Trustees for a two-year term, September, 2023, through August, 2024. Clary made the motion to ratify the appointment of Judge James Lively to the Central Counties Board of Trustees, Huggins seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Lacy Alexander updated the Court on Hamilton County Emergency Communications. Jonesboro VFD is requesting Hamilton County dispatch all Hamilton County emergencies within its jurisdiction. The Court will consider this at the next meeting. Huggins has been in touch with all nine volunteer fire departments regarding the number of portable and hand-held radios requested by each department. He will have each request soon. The workstations which were previously ordered will be installed next week. The generator previously ordered will be installed in July. The HVAC for the server room will be installed after securing a contractor. Call volume for April, 2022, was 1,579 which is higher than April, 2021 (1,124).

Alexander requested the Court add an alarm lock/key code entry system for the north doors of the Annex for after-hours entry. Huggins made the motion to approve \$1,185, expensed to ARPA funds, for the key code entry system, Curry seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Alexander also requested a copier for Emergency Communications. She presented two quotes: one for a black and white copier; one for a color copier. There is very little difference in the price. Tynes made the motion to approve the purchase of a Ricoh color copier for Emergency Communications, Wagner seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

The Court discussed options for financing the two communications towers for Emergency Communications. The first option is to pay for both towers with a combination of ARPA funds and County reserve fund. The second option is to finance the balance, after application of available ARPA funds, with Government Capital Finance on a short-term note. The third option is to pay the balance, after application of available ARPA funds, from a combination of reserves and financing. The Court is considering (1) whether to borrow funds, and (2) if borrowing, when to borrow those funds.

Huggins reported that three surplus County vehicles had been sold to the Hico Police Department. These vehicles were sold for \$1,000.00 each and Huggins provided the City of Hico's check for \$3,000.00 to County Treasurer Cox.

The Court entered into a discussion of the FY2022-2023 budget. The discussion began with a wage increase for employees and a salary increase for elected officials. Other items discussed were continued funding for Road and Bridge account and increased budgets for the Precincts. The final item for discussion was the shortfall in

the Sheriff's Department fuel budget. The estimated shortfall for the current budget year is approximately \$32,000.00. Suggestions to alleviate the shortfall included: examining each account at the Sheriff's Department and moving available money from each account into the fuel account; cutting fuel consumption by eliminating fuel for commuting deputies; cut salaries for personnel. The Court asked the Sheriff for his suggestions on ways to fund the shortfall in the fuel budget.

The Court adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

Attest:

Cynthia R. H.
County Clerk



[Signature]
County Judge