

COMMISSION MINUTES, January 12, 2015

The Board of County Commission (BOCC) for Washington County met in regular session on Monday, January 12th, 2015 in the Commission room at the Washington County Courthouse. Members present: Alison Mueller, 1st District Commissioner, Chairman; Roger Otott, Vice Chairman, 2nd District Commissioner; and Gary Ouellette, 3rd District Commissioner. Denae Jueneman, County Clerk, was present to record meeting minutes. Commissioner-Elect Tim Mueller was also present.

The next regular meeting will be Tuesday, January 20th, 2015 at 8:30 A.M.

Chairman Mueller called the meeting to order.

It was noted that the Courthouse will be closed next Monday, January 19th, in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

The Board appointed Jim Finlayson as interim Public Works Supervisor and to raise his pay to \$18.00 per hour until an engineer is hired at which time his pay will revert back to his current rate.

The Board and Jueneman traveled to the Public Works Department to meet with staff. Chairman Mueller explained the reasons for last weeks' dismissal of the Public Works Administrator and Administrator's Assistant stating that the department was not going in the right direction and the Commissioners had agreed to hire an engineer. Chairman Mueller informed the staff that Finlayson is in charge until an engineer is hired. Concerns were shared by staff members regarding the shortage of staff in the department. Commissioners assured them that ads will be coming out this week to hire additional staff and the search for an engineer will begin this week as well. Chairman Mueller said the Commissioners are here to help in any way they can but the staff should go through Finlayson.

Upon return to the Courthouse, Chairman Mueller made a motion to enter into executive session under non-elected personnel to include Elizabeth Hiltgen, County Attorney, and Commissioner-Elect Tim Mueller. Commissioner Otott seconded the motion. No decision was made upon return to regular session.

The Board approved 2014 Highland Township year-end report and Chairman Mueller signed IRS Form 1096 for Highland Township. The Board signed changer order 2014-38.

Jueneman presented the weekly jail report, annual inventory reports, and a payroll change notice for Hilary Johnson who was hired as the new office manager at Environmental Sciences.

Ed Henry, Twin Valley Developmental Services Inc., presented two contracts designating Twin Valley as the Washington County Community Developmental Disability Organization and Service Provider. Commissioner Otott made a motion to sign both contracts. Commissioner Ouellette seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Ouellette made a motion to allow Public Works up to \$1,500 to construct a shed or cover over the sand/salt pile. Commissioner Otott seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Jueneman reported she attended a class in Abilene last week and met Deann Williams, a manager with KDOR Commercial Vehicles. Williams inquired about Washington County's status on commercial vehicle training and offered to visit with the Commissioners regarding the training. The Board asked Jueneman to schedule Williams and Ann Hawk, County Treasurer, on the agenda.

Jueneman asked about the change noted last week regarding the purchase of coffee. The Board approved the purchase of coffee with County funds for all offices.

Janice Kearn, County Health Administrator, presented a copy of the ad she will be placing for a bookkeeper and asked about the starting salary. Chairman Mueller said the starting salary remains at \$9.50 per hour. Architect interviews have been scheduled next week for the health department project.

At noon, Commissioner-Elect Tim Mueller was sworn in by Jueneman. Commissioner Ouellette made a motion to elect Commissioner Otott as the new Chairman for 2015. Commissioner Mueller seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Chairman Otott made a motion to elect Commissioner Ouellette as Vice-Chair for 2015. Commissioner Mueller seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Sharon Pierce, Public Works Secretary, presented an agreement between Washington County and KDOT to enable the County to participate in benefits from federal-aid funds and to comply with the inspection and evaluation of County bridges. The Board tabled signing the agreement until it is further reviewed.

The Board discussed various subjects.

The meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.