

Crawford County Commission met pursuant to adjournment with these members present: Steve Black, Presiding Commissioner; Rob Cummings, Commissioner District 1; Jared Boast, Commissioner District 2; De Dee Hamilton, Representing County Clerk; and the following proceedings were had to viz;

Attendees at the beginning of the meeting included Darin Layman, Danny Brown, Kellie Vestal, Karen Sikes, Kim Cook, Franky Todd, Pat Schwent, Mary Cummings and Amy England.

9:01 a.m.: The meeting opened with prayer from Darin Layman.

9:04 a.m.: Rob Cummings made a motion to accept the Agenda for July 17, 2023, Jared Boast provided a second. All in favor; motion carried.

Rob Cummings made a motion to accept the Commission Meeting Minutes from July 11, 2023; Jared Boast seconded the motion. All in favor; motion carried.

Mail and other correspondence; applications for the Emergency Management Director position.

Steve Black asked for updates from the county officials. Pat Schwent advised that she had received a proposal from DevNet for \$21,901 for them to do the tax statement printing and mailing. This price would be for approximately 28,000 pieces. Substantial savings would come from postage per piece. Jared Boast made a motion to accept DevNet's proposal. Rob Cummings seconded the motion. All in favor; motion carried.

9:15 a.m.: Karen Sikes gave fund ending balances for June, 2023 and advised there had been no wire transfers for June. She also advised that the City of Steelville was waiting for \$300,000 in ARPA funds that had been previously approved. Karen Sikes said she had requested a report on the county investments. Steve Black said he would ask Josh Goodrich for the report also.

Franky Todd inquired about the status of the appraisal that was being done on the garage the county owns. Steve Black said it should be wrapped up this week. Franky Todd inquired about the status of the Freeman building remodel. Steve Black advised that no bids had been received and it had been decided in a previous meeting to revisit the remodel on September 12.

Rob Cummings said the annex roof was leaking and he would have someone look at it.

Steve Black advised that he had been in touch with the City of Steelville and that the Corps of Engineers was doing a study on the creek behind the courthouse. He said the study could possibly make some money available for work on the creek bank, thereby eliminating the need for anyone to have to maintain the brush there.

9:25 a.m.: Under old business: Steve Black asked for thoughts from the other associate commissioners regarding the administrative assistant position. Karen Sikes referred to statutes that said the position should be called a purchasing agent. Discussion was held from other elected officials who stated they did not want someone else purchasing for their office. More discussion followed regarding phone calls received by the county road districts. Road District 2 has a higher population and receives a lot of calls. Pat Schwent asked Jared Boast about the

increase recently to his road district. Jared Boast reiterated again, that his district had already been maintaining the roads Pat Schwent was referring to, but now they were receiving the tax money they should have for those roads. Jared Boast said the voters were now voting for the person who actually works on their road, and his district was getting the money for roads they had already been maintaining. Discussion continued regarding calls going to one number for the administrative assistant and the administrative assistant getting the message to the correct person. Amy England thought people would not want to call someone else, they would want to talk to their commissioner and inquired as to whether other counties with an administrative assistant don't call their commissioners if they have a problem. Steve Black said he didn't know.

10:00 a.m.: Jared Boast made a motion to recess for the BOE meeting. Rob Cummings seconded the motion. All in favor; motion carried.

10:20 a.m.: The full commission was back with De Dee Hamilton, Amy England, Darin Layman, Pat Schwent, Kellie Vestal and Mary Cummings in attendance. Rob Cummings made a motion to go back into open session. Jared Boast seconded the motion. All in favor; motion carried.

Steve Black said two applications had been received for the EMD position. Those applicants were Paul Satterfield and Mark Friedman. Pat Schwent inquired about the county now having a medical examiner, as that title was shown on the new coroner's building. Discussion was held regarding the subject.

10:25 a.m.: Sue Greenstreet entered the meeting. Karen Sikes followed at 10:30 and Kim Cook entered at 10:40.

Kellie Vestal said that Darren Dake had posted on Facebook that the county was under contract with a medical examiner.

Discussion was held regarding whether the EMD position would stay under the umbrella of the coroners' office. Jared Boast said it was under the commission and thought that's how it should stay. Darin Layman agreed. The question regarding the contracted salary for the EMD was asked again and Jared Boast advised again that it was set in 2020. More discussion followed to include the pay ladder system, the coroners budget, budget time for next year and increases to elected officials budgets for salary increases. Pat Schwent wanted clarification as to who decided on those budgets; the budget officer, or the commission. Steve Black said the budget officer makes the recommendation and the commission makes the decision. De Dee Hamilton reminded everyone there that the pay ladder was put in place to be used as a tool to give some consistency for salaries for county employees. She also reminded everyone that the county was now able to consider better pay for the employees because the sales tax had been approved. The county had been in dire straits before, with the commissioners and the county clerk wondering how they were even going to make payroll. Someone commented that the tax had passed a few years ago. Jared Boast reminded everyone that it had passed, but with a sunset that ended in five years. More discussion followed that included advisement that when the tax passed the second time, recently, with no sunset, that that was when more tax money was assured for general revenue to allow more for payroll.

11:15 a.m.: Kim Cook exited the meeting.

Jared Boast made a motion to go into closed session to discuss personnel. Rob Cummings seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

12:00 p.m.: Jared Boast made a motion to enter back into open session. Rob Cummings seconded the motion. All in favor; motion carried.

12:05 p.m.: Kellie Vestal and Pat Schwent entered the meeting. Discussion was held regarding the ZOOM meeting on Tuesday, July 18 at 11:00 a.m. in the commissioners' office regarding SB 190.

Kellie Vestal advised the commission that mileage from Burlington Northern Railroad had not been reported to the assessor. Pat Schwent added that this could lead to a possible loss of \$750,000 to \$800,000 for the year in railroad and utility taxes for the county. Kellie Vestal stated that this could be corrected with the State Tax Commission, but it had to be done by August 15. Kellie Vestal advised she would be in contact with the STC regarding same.

12:35 p.m.: Jared Boast made a motion to adjourn the July 17, 2023, meeting of the Crawford County Commission. Rob Cummings seconded the motion. All in favor; motion carried.

The Commission adjourned to meet July 25, 2023, at 9:00 a.m.

---

Steve Black, Presiding Commissioner