

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 Kellie Vestal, Pat Schwent, Danny Brown, Karen Sikes, Kim Cook, Jax Jensen, Mark Pfeiffer, Corky Stack, Daren Dake, Darin Layman, Jen Tracy, Charles Cunningham, an observer, and Dennis Roedemeier.

9:00 a.m.: Dennis Roedemeier opened the meeting with prayer and exited the meeting. Amy England entered the meeting.

9:05 a.m.: Jared Boast made a motion to amend the Agenda for November 28, 2023, to include the coroners' remodel bid under old business. Rob Cummings provided a second. All in favor; motion carried.

Rob Cummings made a motion to accept the Commission Meeting Minutes from November 21, 2023; Jared Boast seconded the motion. All in favor; motion carried.

Steve Black advised that he had received an email regarding concern for the proposed closing of Thickety Ford Road. Jared Boast said he was aware of the concerns; one group wanted it closed, another wanted it to stay open. Jared Boast added that it was a long, legal process, and that he had not been contacted by any legal counsel. The commission would make the decision after proper procedures were followed but the decision would not be made any time soon.

Rob Cummings made a motion to close the courthouse on Tuesday, December 26, 2023. Jared Boast provided a second. All in favor; motion carried.

Steve Black made a motion to cancel the commission meeting for the week of December 26, 2023. Rob Cummings seconded the motion. All in favor; motion carried.

Steve Black gave an update from the flood insurance coordinator on the option to remodel the extension building and it being located in the flood plain. In addition to other requirements, the remodel cannot exceed 49% of the appraised value of the building.

County officials: Karen Sikes inquired as to what was recorded in the commission meeting minutes on November 14, 2023 and that it was stated in the minutes that a claim needed to be filed on the Treasurer's Bond. This was necessary because of a payroll error that resulted in an overpayment to an employee, and uncollectable. None of the commissioners recalled the statement being made. Karen Sikes said the amount lost was \$1096.19 and the PA's office had sent certified letters to the person who had failed to repay the payroll amount. Karen Sikes thought it should be prosecuted instead of filing a claim for \$1,000 on her bond.

Pat Schwent addressed the commission to have them sign off on \$133,239.09 for delinquent back taxes. This amount included interest and penalties on 517 accounts for the years 2015, 2016, 2017 and part of 2018. Pat Schwent commended her staff on the hard work they had done to get a total for the write-offs. The commission signed off on the back taxes.

Jared Boast made a motion to allow Pat Schwent to retain Brooks Kenagy for a tax situation involving a bankruptcy. Rob Cummings provided a second. All in favor; motion carried.

Daren Layman advised the commission that Major Carnal was working on a Health and Wellness Program and he would give an update on the program at a later date.

Kim Cook wanted to make everyone aware of the big problem that property fraud is becoming. There is a free service taxpayers can sign up for called Deedwatch.com, where a notification could be sent to alert the taxpayer.

9:50 a.m.: Steve Black asked for citizen participation. De Dee Hamilton asked to go back to the issue that Karen Sikes had regarding what was recorded in the November 14, 2023 minutes. De Dee Hamilton said bond paperwork and the Treasurer's bond was on the agenda for the following week, confirming that it was discussed in the meeting. Karen Sikes said it wasn't discussed the following week and it was confirmed that it was; that Karen Sikes had said she was going to get an update on the status of the non-payment issue from the PA's office. Karen Sikes acknowledged that was correct.

Jax Jensen reported that he was on the Opioid Fund Disbursement Board and that he was the liaison for the board. Jax Jensen asked who was holding the funds and who should be contacted for information regarding the funds. Steve Black said the Treasurer should be contacted.

10:55 a.m.: Corky Stack presented the bids that had been opened on Monday, November 27, 2023, for the coroners' building remodel. Two bids were received: Alexander Construction in Rolla for \$407,125.08, and Lexicon in St Louis for \$492,450. Steve Black stated that a motion had been made for \$300,000 to be allowed for the remodel. Daren Dake agreed and added that he had been very clear about that not being enough. Much discussion was held regarding the extra expense for the remodel. Corky Stack said in comparison, the previous building would have been \$409 per square foot to remodel and this building was \$214 per square foot. Steve Black said the bid still exceeds the budgeted amount. Daren Dake defended what his office needed in order for the county to not have liability issues. Steve Black said that input he had received from the public was that \$300,000 was too much and he would not support more. Corky Stack explained that \$300,000 was never enough and Steve Black said that was what was budgeted for. Jared Boast said there is a line item in the budget today for \$1.2 million for the coroners building. He added they weren't sure how much it would cost to finish, \$300,000 got the building open for business and Phase II would be to get it finished. Daren Dake said that Paul Hutson had provided everything for the county in the past and now the county was having to pay for and provide it. Steve Black said as an official who voted on the \$300,000 remodel, he was not aware of Phase I or Phase II. Discussion was held regarding how much the county pays for autopsies and how many other counties would pay to bring their deceased here for autopsy as well as how much the county is paying to store bodies at a local funeral home. Rob Cummings added that he could care less about autopsies, the county needs a place to store bodies and the funds are budgeted. Rob Cummings said that phases were talked about. Jared Boast apologized that it wasn't clear before. Steve Black stated that there was no savings to the county for the new building, then? Corky Stack there was still \$330,000 in savings to the county versus the other remodel.

11:00 a.m.: John Martin entered the meeting. Discussion was held regarding the budgeted amount for the remodel and the project needing to be finished. Steve Black had understood that a big part of what had been saved on the coroners project had gone to payroll increases. John Martin said there are still funds available in Capital Improvement and in General Revenue and that next years' budget will have nothing to do with payroll and what is there for the coroners building. Mark Pfeiffer commented that as soon as the coolers were in, the county would start saving. John Martin said the coroner could stop money from going out and start bringing revenue in, that it would be self-sustaining. Jen Tracy commented that it seemed to make sense. John Martin exited the meeting.

More discussion was held regarding options for the building to bring in revenue. Jared Boast added that it may never make money, but it will stop how much is going out. Karen Sikes asked why a third-class county like ours wants this when first-class counties don't have them. Daren Dake said they do, as a group and added that we have the opportunity to do what so many counties want to do. He added that a lot of it has to do with finance and his view is that it is a liability issue. Daren Dake felt confident that the commissioners were going to do what they need to, but he would be creating a document to protect himself, as he has told the commission of the liabilities he is aware of and wants to protect the county also.

Steve Black asked for other comments. He added that he would reject the bids and rebid the project with stipulations. Jared Boast asked how much he wants to cut and how much did he want to pay to rebid the project. Corky said his bid was good for thirty days. Jared Boast thought they should do the project and do it right. Rob Cummings said they needed to put an end to this today. Jared Boast made a motion to accept Alexander Construction's bid for \$407,125.08, and added it is still a \$330,000 savings from the original project bid and includes a \$40,000 emergency generator. Rob Cummings seconded the motion. Steve Black was opposed; motion carried.

Roll call was as follows:

Steve Black	Nay
Rob Cummings	Yea
Jared Boast	Yea

Rob Cummings said that he and Danny Brown would be in Jefferson City tomorrow to attend The Aquatic and Connective Team Talk. Danny Brown would be addressing representatives from all over the state with his knowledge of low water crossings and box culvert installation.

11:43 a.m.: Jared Boast made a motion to adjourn the November 28, 2023, meeting of the Crawford County Commission. Rob Cummings seconded the motion. All in favor; motion carried.

The Commission adjourned to meet December 5, 2023, at 9:00 a.m.

Steve Black, Presiding Commissioner