

The Hamilton County Board of Commissioners met Monday, January 30, 2012 at 8:45 am with all members, County Assessor, County Attorney and the County Clerk present. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Wally Driewer. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. The Open Meetings Act is posted on the east wall in the Commissioner's room with Open meeting Act brochures available to the public during the meeting. Notice of this meeting was published in the News-Register the week of January 25, 2012. A current agenda is on file and available for inspection in the office of the County Clerk, posted outside the County Clerk's office and posted on the County website. There are not any items listed on the current agenda that will cause a conflict of interest for the Commissioners. Motion by Trumble second by Andersen to approve the agenda as presented. Roll Call Vote: Trumble-yes, Andersen-yes, Fox-yes, Bergen-yes, Driewer-yes. The minutes were approved as printed.

County Assessor Pat Sandberg presented new Ag land values for 2012 to the Board. There are no longer any market areas in the County. Values are now based on soil types. Sandberg stated the new values are in compliance with the State percentages. This list of new values is on file in the Assessor's and County Clerk's offices.

The following correspondence and reports were reviewed: Central Platte NRD-minutes, Keystone Pipeline- sample letter to landowners, Upper Big Blue NRD- minutes, Senior Center-newsletter-menu & calendar, Todd Jensen- letter in reference to City of Aurora & County- put aside differences, lodging tax for November 2011- \$1,262.77 and Extension office-monthly reports.

Motion by Andersen second by Fox to approve a one day liquor permit for Korner Still for March 17th for a fund raiser at the fairgrounds. Roll Call Vote: Andersen-yes, Fox-yes, Trumble-yes, Bergen-yes, Driewer-yes.

Darla Svoboda- Hwy & Zoning presented five requests for subdivision approvals. The Planning Commission recommended approval on all requests. 1) Earl Jensen, located in the W1/2NE1/4 17-11-5, 2.896 acres. Motion by Trumble second by Bergen to approve the request from Earl Jensen. Roll Call Vote: Trumble-yes, Bergen-yes, Andersen-yes, Fox-yes, Driewer-yes. 2) Dale Bachman, located in the NW1/4NE1/4 5-9-7, 1.183 acres. Motion by Trumble second by Andersen to approve the request from Dale Bachman. Roll Call Vote: Trumble-yes, Andersen-yes, Fox-yes, Bergen-yes, Driewer-yes. 3) Janette Burch, located in the NW1/4 25-9-6, 4.286 acres. Motion by Trumble second by Bergen to approve the request from Janette Burch. Roll Call Vote: Trumble-yes, Bergen-yes, Andersen-yes, Fox-yes, Driewer-yes. 4) Dave McHargue, located in the SW1/4SE1/4 27-13-6, 4.013 acres. Motion by Trumble second by Andersen to approve the request from Dave McHargue. Roll Call Vote: Trumble-yes, Andersen-yes, Fox-yes, Bergen-yes, Driewer-yes. 5) Tom Cornwell, located in the NW1/4NE1/4 21-9-6, 1.321 acres. Motion by Trumble second by Andersen to approve the request from Tom Cornwell. Roll Call Vote: Trumble-yes, Andersen-yes, Fox-yes, Bergen-yes, Driewer-yes. Svoboda also presented a pipe memorandum request from Edwin Peters to run an electric line from SW1/4 17-9-5 to SE1/4 18-9-5. Motion by Andersen second by Bergen to approve the request from Edwin Peters. Roll Call Vote: Andersen-yes, Bergen-yes, Fox-yes, Trumble-yes, Driewer-yes.

A discussion was held regarding a Fracture Critical Bridge Inspection Agreement with the State of Nebraska, Speece Lewis Engineering and Hamilton County. Previously the County could inspect the bridges with an inspector of their choice. The Federal

Government is now requiring all Fracture Critical bridges be inspected by engineers and possibly “reload” the ratings. The County does need to “clean off” the surface of the bridges that will be inspected. The total price of the inspection is \$36,934.25 with the County’s share being \$7,386.80. It was noted that the Federal Government might not continue to fund the inspections and the total cost for inspections could become the County’s at some time. Motion by Andersen second by Trumble to approve Resolution #919 which authorizes Chairman Wally Driewer to sign the Engineering Services Agreement between Hamilton County and the Nebraska Department of Roads. Roll Call Vote: Andersen-yes, Trumble-yes, Fox-yes, Bergen-yes, Driewer-yes.

Betty Curtis from the Clean Community Regional Hazardous Waste Collection Facility presented information on her facility. Ms. Curtis apologized for sending the County a \$1,500.00 bill for membership since the Commissioners had not heard of the program. \$1,500.00 was approved by Jane Berry City of Aurora Administrator which is half of the total cost of the program. This program is for disposal of household hazardous waste and is located in Grand Island by the airport. If the Commissioners decide to join, all residents of Hamilton County will be able to dispose of their household hazardous waste. This would take the place of the collection of household hazardous waste at the fairgrounds. This will be on the agenda next week.

Roger Bamesberger and Linda Klassmeyer discussed a cash flow issue at the Hamilton Manor. This is due to a change in the Nebraska Medicaid billing. The State of Nebraska owes Hamilton Manor \$259,696.48. This amount represents payments due the Manor from February 2011. Ms. Klassmeyer asked the Commissioners for a loan of \$130,000.00 to help get them by until these funds come in. She hopes payment will be received within the next month. It was noted by some Commissioners that maybe the County should not be in the nursing home business, it may be time to put this to a vote of the people to levy a tax and either levy a tax or sell the Manor. Motion by Fox second by Trumble to possibly loan the Manor \$130,000.00 from Inheritance Tax Fund pending a written agreement. Roll Call Vote: Fox-yes, Trumble-yes, Andersen-yes, Bergen-no, Driewer-yes. County Attorney Mike Powell will write up an agreement for repayment. This will be on the agenda next week.

There were no applicants for General Assistance.

Commissioner Driewer contacted DeAnn Haeffner from the State Auditors office regarding the County Surveyor budget. There are three options for increasing his budget for contract labor. 1) re-open the budget and explain to taxpayers why he needs an increase, 2) if there is extra money in General Miscellaneous transfer it to the Surveyor’s budget, or 3) take money out of the Inheritance Tax Fund. Commissioner Andersen presented a bar graph showing the increase in the Surveyor budget since 2007-2008. Items discussed were: can’t see how the budget was underfunded, had \$25,000.00 in contract labor-should have lasted until the end of the budget year, Katt’s salary for County Surveyor is \$34,100.00, Surveyor’s job to find corners, usually unforeseen emergency causes budget shortfall-no emergency, be careful of setting precedence, Surveyor needs money in contract labor to fulfill his statutory duties, it takes more than one person to find corners, needs equipment to find corners, what options if don’t fund, leaves us in trouble if someone needs corners, should have slowed down last fall, budgetary responsibility, previously working at direct cost-then put in multiplier since issues came up, County could have liability since have to provide funds, other elected

officials went with request from Commissioners on their budgets, Katt's salary is 65% of other elected officials and his people only receive 30% of money to do work, cheaper to hire other contract labor, if gets funds will go back to direct cost, it is the County's statutory duty to find corners. Motion by Fox second by Andersen to leave the budget as is-the way it was presented along with everyone else's. Roll Call Vote: Fox-yes, Andersen-yes, Trumble-yes, Bergen-yes, Driewer-no. Commissioner Driewer stated that we have an obligation to find corners. Commissioner Trumble stated that he does not see an emergency situation that justifies change.

Clerk of the District Court Wendy Dethlefs presented a proposed Interlocal Agreement with Hamilton County, the County Court Clerk, Clerk of the District Court and State Court Administrator. This is in regards to LB 669 for assistance between the courts to provide services. Motion by Fox second by Trumble to approve the Interlocal between the District Court, County Court and State as proposed by LB669. Roll Call Vote: Fox-yes, Trumble-yes, Andersen-yes, Bergen-yes, Driewer-yes.

Sheriff Kirk Handrup met with the Commissioners to give an update on the carpet and tile project at the Jail. The tile will be replaced in the the north entry, Police Department Secretary office and two bathrooms. Sheriff Handrup checked with the PD about starting in the secretary's office and was told by Chief Brokenrope that is not in the city employee's job descriptions to move furniture. This message was given to him by his boss. Sheriff Handrup was concerned since the funds are in this year's budget for the project. It was decided that the tile and carpet would be paid for this budget year, the tile and carpet installation will be started in the County area, the tile and carpet labor for the County areas would be paid for this budget year and after August the remaining tile and carpet will be installed and the labor paid at that time.

County Clerk Pat Anderson reported Mr. Ralph Peters requested to bid the health insurance for Hamilton County. The Commissioners declined the request to bid the health insurance this year.

Motion by Fox second by Andersen to approve two assignments for collection in the amounts of \$1,098.20 and \$589.00. Roll Call Vote: Fox-yes, Andersen-yes, Trumble-yes, Bergen-yes, Driewer-yes.

County Clerk Pat Anderson reported the dues for South Central Economic Development District are due in February. These dues are normally taken from the Inheritance Fund. The Commissioners decided to continue to take the dues from the Inheritance Fund instead of changing to the General Fund.

Motion by Trumble second by Fox to approve the write-offs in the amount of \$317.51 for the Ambulance Department. Roll Call Vote: Trumble-yes, Fox-yes, Andersen-yes, Bergen-yes, Driewer-yes.

There was no further business. Motion by Trumble second by Andersen to adjourn at 11:47 am. Roll Call Vote: Trumble-yes, Andersen-yes, Fox-yes, Bergen-yes, Driewer-yes. The next regular meeting will be held on Monday, February 6, 2012 at 8:30 am.

Hamilton County Board of Commissioners

Doug Andersen-1st District

Wally Driewer-Chairman-2nd District

Larry Fox-Vice Chairman-3rd District

Clarence W. Trumble-4th District

Tim Bergen-5th District

Attest: _____

Patricia L. Anderson
Hamilton County Clerk