

MERCER COUNTY BOARD MINUTES

March 5, 2019

Board convened at 6:42 p.m.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance roll call showed the following members present: Board Members Flowers, Frieden, Fullerlove, Gregg, Hare, Moreland, Rind, and Sarabasa. There was a quorum present.

There was no public comment.

Motion to approve the consent agenda by Board Member Fullerlove seconded by Board Member Frieden was approved by vote of the Board.

Angie Litterst spoke on the matter of the platting officer. She explained that the fees are collected from the party or property owner requesting a subdivision plat, and then passed on to the Platting Officer. The funds are not coming directly from the county general fund or the taxpayers. She stated that there are some subdivisions upcoming where the platting officer will be needed (i.e. Dollar General in Sherrard/Fyre Lake area). Motion to retain Rick Regnier at the rate of \$300 made by Board Member Frieden seconded by Board Member Sarabasa was approved by vote of the Board.

Chairman Sarabasa addressed the proposed Courthouse time clock and cameras. He stated that several individuals have brought to his attention the fact that they have come to the Courthouse to do County business and were unable to do so due to offices not being open. He did not give any details on the subject. He proposed that a time clock/security camera system be integrated. He stated that he would like cameras installed at the front door and in the hallway outside of the court room. He reiterated that it was in the early planning stages and entirely up to the Board. He reported that he had discussed different options with Sarah Bohnsack and she will be reviewing costs of each system. State's Attorney Lee asked if the issues/complaints were going to be discussed with the Dept Heads. Chairman Sarabasa stated that the Dept Heads would have an opportunity to give their point of view. State's Attorney Lee expressed concern over the fact that the Dept Heads have not been approached about the issues/complaints that have been brought against the Courthouse employees. Discussion ensued as to: what employee expectations are/if they are known, whether short-staffing in departments is an issue, and how employee leave time is tracked. Chairman Sarabasa requested that the issue be included on the April agenda so that the matter can be discussed further. Sarah Bohnsack suggested that her firm would reach out to the Dept Heads and gather information as to how each department tracks employee leave time and then report back to the Board.

Motion to approve hiring EideBailly for auditing purposes by Board Member Fullerlove seconded by Board Member Sarabasa was approved by vote of the Board. Motion to approve claims by Board Member Gregg seconded by Board Member Frieden was approved by roll call vote of the Board – 7 ayes, 0 nays. The claims presented for payment on March 15, 2019 are as follows: General Corporate \$48,812.84, Public Health \$11,470.78, County Highway \$52,113.36, Federal Aid Matching \$7,155.23, Township Motor Fuel \$16,138.33, Motor Fuel \$581.36, Animal Control \$1,147.36, Pet Population \$1,366.24, Law Library \$1,022.78, Capital Improvements \$7,700.00, Liability Insurance \$52,382.91, Circuit Clerk Automation \$7,145.31, Probation Fees \$1,315.00, Circuit Clerk Document Storage \$7,320.61, Drug Crime Lab \$29.03, Assessor-GIS \$35.27 for a total of \$215,736.41.

In other business, Board Member Frieden mentioned the road conditions throughout the County. Due to the winter we have had, the roads in all parts of the County are deteriorating quickly and the Highway Dept has been contracting for rock to try to make the roads passable. Board Member Frieden stated that \$72,000 has been taken out of Motor Fuel Tax to cover the Highway Dept employees' insurance. He also stated that there are 3 major projects in the works for the Highway Dept – Joy Blacktop, repairing the bridge west of Seaton, and repairing the bridge north of Cable. He reported that the Joy Blacktop will be oiled & chipped; asphalt had previously been discussed for that project, but it is not feasible at this time. He reiterated that the County road problems won't be going away soon. Due to cuts, the Highway Dept is down to 4 full-time employees and 3 part-time employees (snow removal). He stated that Rick Walker (HW engineer) would like to attend an upcoming meeting to address the Board. Sarah Bohnsack reported that the money for the Highway Dept insurance was allocated and levied for according to the employees' coverage (single, family). Michael Zecher offered to provide motor fuel tax information to the Board so they can get a better idea of where the money comes from.

Also, in other business, Bev Lower updated the Board on the fiberoptic internet installation. She reported that AlphaOmega and Viola Telephone did a walk through of the Courthouse to get an idea of what the best location would be to run the fiber. John Baker (AlphaOmega) is putting a proposal together and then plans can proceed.

Motion to adjourn to Thursday, April 4th at 6:30 p.m. by Board Member Fullerlove was seconded by Board Member Frieden and was approved by vote of the Board at 7:47 p.m.