

OWEN COUNTY COUNCIL  
MINUTES-FEBUARY 8, 2021

Meeting was called to order by President, Andy Wood.

Pledge of Allegiance was made, and Opening Prayer lead by Nick Robertson.

Roll was called; Members present were Andy Wood and Polly Chesser.

Zoom Members present were Nick Robertson, Amy Casebeer and Anton Neff.

Jennifer Abrell and Auditor Sheila Reeves were also present at meeting.

Zoom Attendees: Peggy Robertson, Sam Hobbs, Noriko Stanfield, Gary Burton, Donna McElroy, Clint Wampler, Rachael Whiting, Erich Teuton, Corbin Abrell, Matt Miller, Paula Wood, Laura Lane, Allie Peot, Norm Warner, Treasurer, Devin Brown, Lori Quillen, Jim Bryan, Kathleen Lamb, Suzanne Simmerman, Bob, Patty, Taxpayer 2, iPhone (2) Unknown and Special Guest Yvette from Adams County was introduced by Councilman Neff.

A motion to approve the minutes as presented was made by Nick Robertson; seconded by Polly Chesser. Motion carried 5-0. Mr. Neff asked about the December minutes that were tabled previously. Ms. Reeves explained that the recorder was being reviewed by IT as no notes or paperwork had been left.

Mr. Wood moved Jennifer Abrell up on the agenda to present a review of the 4-H Programs that included highlights from 2020 especially the community garden that had been implemented. The State has approved a live 4-H event for 2021, details will be provided a later date. Ms. Abrell also asked when the Grant Awards would be issued. A motion made by Anton Neff; seconded by Andy Wood to allow the Auditor to send all Organizations their awarded amounts. Motion carried 5-0. The delay was primarily due to the closure of the courthouse from COVID; as they are usually presented in person.

Ms. Reeves presented the 2021 Budget cut amounts by the State that were needed for EMS, Highway and County General. A motion to reduce EMS-Insurance Line Item \$18935, Highway Cumulative Bridge Fund-Bridge Line Item \$72377 and table the General Fund until the next meeting in March was made by Anton Neff; seconded by Nick Robertson. Motion carried 5-0.

Also noted was the Highway may be able to utilize other fund monies to help compensate the cut. Andy Wood thanked the Commissioners for their work on the County Insurance.

Ms. Reeves thanked members for their approval of Paycor for payroll processing. Additional meetings and updates will take place as we move forward in the transition. Mr. Neff made a motion to rescind a policy action that had taken place during August 2020 regarding the implementation of longevity compensation in the month of February as it will now be absorbed in the Paycor Program. Motion was seconded by Nick Robertson. Motion carried 5-0

Mr. Wood and Ms. Reeves informed members that Becky Brown had reviewed the possibility of being reimbursed for COVID payroll expenses and unfortunately there were no feasible options.

911 Communications Director-Kathleen Lamb presented a request to payout PTO hours in the amount of \$12585.401 for six of her employees that had brought time balances forward with them. While there is a policy in place for managing PTO hours, employees using their vacation hours and a use-it or lose-it makes it challenging with these added hours. It was agreed by members that while they appreciated her trying to tackle the issue; they are concerned with the precedent it would set in granting the request. It was also agreed that it was a broader issue and that something needs to be done to address the excessive balances across the board. Noted was that this was one of the components that would be available for monitoring with Paycor. A motion to postpone the request at this time and allow the attorney to review the issue further was made by Anton Neff; seconded by Amy Casebeer. Motion carried 5-0.

Treasurer Diane Stutsman had presented an Ordinance adopting an Investment Policy allowing her as the Investing Officer to make Investments. Her phone/zoom reception was poor, so Ms. Reeves presented the information. Mr. Neff made a motion (noting that the Ordinance number needed to be corrected) to approve the Ordinance; seconded by Nick Robertson. Motion carried 5-0. Nick Robertson made a motion; seconded by Amy Casebeer to allow an additional appropriation from this year's budget in the amount of \$1041.43 to be paid from the Riverboat Fund. Motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Gary Burton presented the new Maintenance Superintendent job description for review. The position would be for a Full-time Non-exempt Employee/35hrs-Wk/\$20hr with a maximum number of hours not to exceed 40hours. A cost savings of approximately \$5000 from the current budgeted amount. It eliminates the Supervisory Job Title and duties as well. In addition, the Laborers position will be made part-time. Anton Neff made a motion to approve the Job Description and changes in positions; seconded by Amy Casebeer. Motion carried 5-0. Noted was a new base pay of \$36400/1820Hrs/Yrly. Mr. Burton also related that the County Maintenance Truck will no longer be a take home vehicle.

Sheriff Hobbs presented two additional appropriation requests. The first was for a reimbursement check that was received and deposited into the General Fund for uniforms. A motion to allow the appropriation was made by Anton Neff; seconded by Nick Robertson. Motion carried 5-0.

The second request for \$1465.39 for contract service expenses due to an expected shortfall. An additional amount of \$2480 will be needed in June/July to cover the I-Touch Biometric Contract. A motion to table the request was made by Anton Neff; seconded by Nick Robertson. Motion carried 5-0.

Mr. Hobbs presented a copy of an Interlocal Agreement between the Town of Gosport and the Sheriff's Office to provide law enforcement coverage. The services would be paid for in the amount of \$17000. It was agreed that employees are already being paid for their hours of service while on shifts and that the Funds should be receipted into the County General Fund. The motion was made by Anton Neff; seconded by Polly Chesser. Motion carried 5-0. He will be presenting it to Gosport on February 9<sup>th</sup> and the Commissioners on the 15<sup>th</sup>.

Salary Confirmation Summaries were presented for signatures. Ms. Reeves noted that there were pending copies from the prior meeting that had not been sign, as well as the February copies. A motion to allow Andy Wood to sign the summaries was made by Anton Neff; seconded by Polly Chesser. Motion carried. 5-0.

Ms. Reeves reviewed the current processing of Toshiba Contract Claims in having to separate and send individual amounts to each office/each month. She requested to be allowed to combine all Departments budgeted line items into one for easier processing. Non-County Levied Funds would still have to be billed separately. A motion to allow the Auditor to move funds to one designated line item was made by Anton Neff; seconded by Nick Robertson. Motion carried 5-0.

Ms. Lamb related that she has not received any machines yet. Mr. Burton said it was in the process.

No Department Head comments were made.

No further Auditor comments were made.

Councilman Wood thanked Yvette from Adams County for joining them this evening.

Also noted was that LOW was in the process of getting members access to the system that will allow them to review all funds.

No other business came before the board.

A motion to adjourn was made by Polly Chesser