

Owen County Council  
Minutes-January 11, 2021

Council Present: Andy Wood, Verl Keith, Nick Robertson and Polly Chesser. Auditor-Sheila Reeves

Council Present by Zoom: Anton Neff, Chuck Hess and Amy Casebeer.

Zoom Attendees: Peggy Robertson, Patty \_\_, Norm Warner, Angela Frank, Cris Lunsford, Sam Hobbs, Suzanne Simmerman, Rachel \_\_, Gary Burton, Jim Bryan, Dan McBride, Kathleen Lamb, Erich Teuton, Bob Curry, Clint Wampler, Lori Quillen, Donna McElroy, Watchful Taxpayer, Matt Miller, I-phones/no ID(3), I-pads/no ID (6), Debra \_\_, Mrs. Wood, Jack White, Diane Stutsman, Hodge@iendeavor, Mary Frances, Alexander Peot, Becky Brown, Charles Townsend, Laura Lane, Chris Breeden, and Dakota Gibbs.

Meeting was called to order at 7pm.

Chuck Hess lead the Pledge of Allegiance and Prayer was given by Nick Robertson.

Andy Wood requested for any Members, Department Heads and Public present by Zoom to offer stories or memories for Stevie Williamson due to his recent passing. Several stories and were related; many about his long time commitment to Owen County serving politically, as a bus driver and mentor to those who knew him in their younger days to present.

Re-Organization-Auditor Reeves requested for nominations to appoint a President and Vice-President.

A motion to appoint Andy Wood was made by Verl Keith; seconded by Chuck Hess. No other nominations were made. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Anton Neff to appoint Verl Keith as Vice-President; seconded by Nick Robertson. No other nominations were made. Motion carried 7-0.

A copy of a 2021 Calendar Meeting Dates was presented by Mr. Wood for review. Meeting dates were approved with a change on October 11<sup>th</sup> to the 12 due to it being a holiday and all meetings will be held at 7pm. Also confirmed was the Annual Budget Hearings for August 11<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> beginning at 8am. All meetings will follow Roberts Rules of Order. Motion to approve the list was made by Chuck Hess; seconded by Anton Neff. Motion carried 7-0.

In further discussion regarding Meeting Agendas it was agreed that all Agenda Items need to be submitted by noon the Wednesday prior to each meeting to allow time for processing and presenting to Council Members for their review. If any items come in after that time; Mr. Wood will review and determine if an emergency only to add it to the agenda. Motion was made by Chuck Hess; seconded by Verl Keith. Motion carried 7-0.

Mr. Wood also presented a list of Board Appointments and Liaisons. List will be attached for permanent record. Board appointments confirmed Plan Commission-Amy Casebeer, County Grants Committee-Amy Casebeer and Chuck Hess, LEPC/EMAC-Andy Wood. Motion to approve as presented was made by Chuck Hess; seconded by Anton Neff. Motion carried 7-0.

Ms. Reeves related that the minutes from December 14<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> were not available as they had not been done. She will try to go back and listen to the meeting tapes and have them for the next meeting, as no personal notes were left from those. Tabled

2021 Annual Budget Approvals were received from the State on December 7<sup>th</sup>. Copies had been provided for review. A 1782 notice had been received prior and the numbers did correspond. No final decision on where or what line items were to be cut. Ms. Reeves will review them further and put on the next agenda.

Ms. Reeves had provided a State Gateway email relating that no Additional Appropriations had been submitted to the State for approval in the year 2020. Mr. Wood asked of Attorney Jim Bryan if he was aware of the issue; he acknowledged so and was working the Auditor and will make sure it is part of the review by Crowe LLC. He indicated that Crowe is expected the Commissioners are expected to sign the contract with them and access LOW to begin their study and possibly a report expected at the end of February.

Mr. Neff and Mr. Hess both were extremely concerned with them not being done as Council had taken all the appropriate steps to approve them per requests. Mr. Neff further stated for those listening on Zoom again that the Cash Flow was available for the appropriations. Mr. Bryan added that it is a critical step for best practices in moving forward. Ms. Reeves then explained following the December 18<sup>th</sup> meeting that departments were under the assumption they had the funds and either spent and/or encumbered funds. This will leave many line items in the red and not allow for the encumbrances if in the red. She also related that the Riverboat Appropriation to pay for the remainder of the 2020 budget expenses-including payroll could have been used to directly pay for expenses; however, it was done as an additional appropriation so that will also most likely leave the county general in the red.

She was instructed by State Board of Accounts not to do any data entry and gather up for their next audit.

Mr. Wood related that he had contacted the State also and requested that they move up their audit this year to ensure they are moving forward and the integrity is solid.

Ms. Reeves will now provide Department monthly reports for them to review and assurance that all steps are being taken and followed up by members in moving forward.

Mr. Burton related that they were working on a Resolution for their next meeting to make sure that all Departments have read-only access to LOW to help with overall transparency. He was also working with Forthphase-IT to correct the remote access issues that many are having. Tonight's meeting with the technical upgrades was just the start in the process.

Attorney Bryan continued with updates regarding the County Highway and the Community Crossing Grant in the amount of one-million dollars for four roads. Kelly Road Bridge is also part of a Grant.

Surplus Auctions have been approved on Govdeals.com. It will allow the County to declare surplus items with no fees/no costs. Individuals will pay all shipping costs; thus, allowing the County to receive 100% of the funds.

Covid-Time off pay was discussed as notice had been received from the U.S. Department of Labor that it did not extend employees' entitlement to FFCRA leave beyond December 31, 2020. Following discussion, it was determined not to extend the benefit by Council Motion was 6-0-1 Abstention/Robertson. Employees can use their sick/vacation/comp-time if needed.

Highway Superintendant Greg Melton wanted clarification on wages and specific funds they are to be drawn from. Best fit is to pay from 1173 that stays fluid not 1176. Decline in 1135 revenue was also noted.

Mr. Melton is to keep them updated on funds and revenues and adjust accordingly.

Mr. Melton also presented concerns regarding how an Operator Lease Damage to a Tractor was handled.

With the inability to access LOW, he was unable to see that the Former Auditor had received and placed the funds in the wrong fund-MVH. It should have been receipted in to 1176-37601. Ms. Reeves offered that she could make the transfer as 2020 balances were still open. Mr. Bryan is working with them both to address the claim issues. Later in the meeting it was confirmed that Mr. Melton's Liaisons were Verl Keith and Nick Robertson.

EMS Director Cris Lunsford presented 2020 Statistics that included 3013 Runs. To date compared to this time last year they are already up 30/35 in run totals. Mr. Neff asked what counts as a run; Mr. Lunsford says

transport of persons/multiple persons and that in fact they are running two ambulances all the time. Next he explained that he had received approval by Council to purchase two defibrillators to be paid from the Riverboat Fund. One was to be paid from 2020, and one in 2021. Due to the no additional appropriations being submitted to the State a motion to rescind the 2020 appropriation was made by Anton Neff; seconded by Chuck Hess to pay for out of 2021 Riverboat Cash Balance. Motion carried 7-0.

Additional Appropriation requests were presented by both the Treasurer-Diane Stutsman and Auditor-Sheila Reeves in the amount of \$400 for Elected Official Training. While no one was opposed it was decided that claims could be made toward the original appropriations that council had made in the amount of \$1600 and if the funds were all depleted then make additional requests.

Presented next was the Vacation/Personal/Comp time payout for Sheila Reeves due her employment ending at the Health Department. County Policy addresses this. Mr. Bryan confirmed that it would be at the last pay rate of her employment of \$18.584 X 274.532/hrs plus perf/fica. Mr. Neff made the motion to liquidate the total of \$6063.61 from the Riverboat Fund; seconded by Chuck Hess. Motion carried 7-0.

No Department Head comments were made.

The 2021 Compensation Summaries were presented for approval and signatures. Mr. Hess made a motion to allow President Wood to sign the summaries. Motion carried 7-0.

The next item requested by Auditor Reeves for Council to consider a presentation from Paycor and LOW Associates regarding possibly out-sourcing Payroll with the current workload and issues that keep arising. She feels that this may be an area to decrease the workload while re-grouping and add HR, Insurance. Program compatibility and costs savings were of concern. They agreed for Ms. Reeves to arrange for a presentation, she will provide dates as soon as possible. Added comments were from Ms. Chesser concerned with no HR, Mr. Keith if it can save money and assist with the workload he would be in favor of considering, Mr. Robertson wanted to know the cost of two employees versus the cost of an outside company.

She related that she was working on transfers and encumbrances; but it was a slow process as she had to do a three-step comparison reviewing funds availability. The new HAS Insurance Program is being implemented and that individual sign-ups were being worked on by her staff.

Council Comments-

Mr. Wood thanked fellow members for their time and commitment.

Ms. Casebeer thanked Ms. Reeves for her time and hard work she was putting in; others thanks also.

Mr. Hess had spoke with the Coroner earlier and possibly adding a Chief Deputy position and targeting consideration during budget hearings.

No other comments from the public were made.

A motion to adjourn was made by Nick Robertson. Motion carried 7-0.