

## Minutes for Thursday, December 28, 2017

### Purchase orders and Travel Requests.....

County.....Purchase order to Business Communications Specialists for the amount of \$96,031.89 for a new phone system.

Mr. Lammers moved to approve the purchase orders and travels requests.

Mr. Love seconded the motion

Vote: Mr. Schroeder absent Mr. Lammers yes Mr. Love yes

Exceptions: Mr. Lammers none Mr. Love none Mr. Schroeder absent

Mr. Love called the meeting to order at 8:40 a.m. with Mr. Lammers by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

The business agenda was held at 10:00 a.m. with Commissioners Love and Lammers; Cindy Landwehr.

The minutes from Tuesday December 26, 2017 were reviewed and approved.

Greg and Don Klausung met with Commissioners Love and Lammers at 10:30 a.m. to discuss Country Acres Water works. Greg gave the Commissioners information regarding the water system. They looking to have the Commissioners take ownership of the system and are seeking easements for the system. There was an agreement from Jan 1978 that gave the Commissioners ultimate control of the licensing of said system. The system started in 1978 has been maintained and serviced Jim Cutlip is the current operator. The system has potential to grow and add the 20 house lots that have not been developed yet. Copies of the agreement were included in the paperwork. Income and expenses for past years were also included. The Klausings are looking to sell the golf course and the new prospects are not interested in operating a water/sewer system. The golf business is not thriving currently and they are hoping to sell. The Klausings would like to see the system continue for the homeowners. The Putnam County Commissioners are not looking to expand into the water and sewer business. Mr. Lammers does not believe it should be the county government's responsibility to operate water and sewer. They do not want to operate water and sewer. Why does the EPA believe that Putnam County should take over the operation of the private system? Greg Klausung is asking why the current Commissioners do not have to abide by the decisions made by previous Commissioners. Mr. Lammers explained the operation of the County's current water/sewer systems and the management by the Village of Ottawa. Mr. Lammers is also a resident of the area in question. He does not believe the County or government should be in charge of any utility. Mr. Lammers suggested asking the residents for options to the solutions. Don Klausung asked if this was realistic since no three people will agree on anything. Mr. Lammers suggested a homeowner's association. This meeting was a positive step to get to a resolution of the problem. Legal issues will need to be resolved as to if the Commissioners are legally obligated to take over the operation of the system. Greg asked why Jackson Betscher, Administrator attended the meeting in Bowling Green regarding this matter and if he talked to the Commissioners about the meeting. Mr. Love understands that if the previous Commissioners sign an agreement the current Commissioners must uphold the agreement. He explained why

Mr. Betscher attended the meeting to determine what the County's responsibilities are. Mr. Love explained that today's meeting does answer most of the questions that the Commissioners had regarding this matter. The Commissioners will have to seek legal advice to determine their responsibilities. Mr. Love explained that he has asked questions regarding this to surrounding communities about expanding their services to this area. Glandorf had no interest at the time, Kalida may be interested. Greg explained that the current system need to expand to be able to continue to operate. The legal opinions will have to be resolved to determine the next step to take. A letter will be written and sent to the residents to get their opinions. Each party will give their main issues to be addressed. Don Klausing asked what about the cost questions how they will answer those questions. Mr. Lammers put in a system in his home to make the water the way he wanted it. Mr. Love suggested informing all the resident that the status of water/sewer system at the golf course. Don Klausing asked how do we get them to respond to the letter. Mr. Love said that they want input and to emphasize the condition of the system operational and compliant. Would the residents be in favor of a homeowners association operating the system or the County? A form letter will be given as a template to base the survey on. The letter should inform the people and initiate feedback. A board may need to be setup with a homeowners association for the operation of the system. Mr. Love explained that in the association the majority vote wins. Mr. Love also mentioned creating a maintenance fund. Greg Klausing said the Commissioners would be the best opportunity to expand the system and help it grow to keep it functioning for many more years. Mr. Lammers said they have to review all the option. The letter will be composed and reviewed before it is sent and the Prosecutor will be asked about the legal obligations of the County. Mr. Love affirmed the Mr. Hemrick has the license for the water operation and Mr. Cutlip operates the sewer side. What will happen to them after the transaction is complete. Greg Klausing said both of them plan to stay. The survey is completed by Bockrath & Assoc. and the signatures for approval are needed. Greg explained the water system will be separated from the golf course in the next couple months.

Mr. Love moved to adjourn for the office lunch at 12:15 p.m.

Mr. Lammers seconded the motion.

Vote: Schroeder; absent      Lammers; yes      Love; yes

Mr. Love and Lammers returned from lunch at 1:10 p.m.

Phil Maag with Link Investments met with Commissioners Love and Lammers at 2:15 p.m. to sign the lease agreements and the closing agreements for the Communication Tower at Third & Hickory Streets and the Brookhill property.

Mr. Lammers moved to adjourn for the day at 2:30 p.m.

Mr. Love seconded the motion.

Vote: Schroeder; absent      Lammers; yes      Love; yes

Mr. Lammers moved to approve the minutes as read from Thursday, December 28, 2017.

Mr. Love seconded the motion.

Vote: Mr. Schroeder yes      Mr. Lammers yes      Mr. Love yes

