OSCEOLA COUNTY
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
MINUTES
FEBRUARY 3, 2015

The Committee meeting was called to order at 9:33 a.m. by Chairman Emig.


Also present: Susan Vander Pol-County Coordinator, Karen Bluhm- County Clerk, and other members of the public.

Motion by Commissioner Tiedt, support by Commissioner Halladay, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

Brief public comment: None.

Employee/Board comment: None.

Motion by Commissioner Elkins, support by Commissioner Nehmer, to approve the minutes of January 20, 2015 as presented. Motion was unanimously supported.

Recommended by Commissioner Tiedt, supported by Commissioner Nehmer, to approve the current claims of the County in the amount of $43,215.31. Recommendation was unanimously supported.

Conservation District Update
Charmaine Lucas from the Osceola-Lake Conservation District shared statistics from the 2014 Household Hazardous Waste collection. She reported that in the three county area 23,000 pounds of waste were collected. She asked Commissioners for help in recruiting more participation in this year's event set for October 10, 2015. Tasha Lapinski, MAEAP Technician, shared information regarding the MAEAP program and what her role is in assisting farmers in the program. Discussion was held.

White Pine Trail Project Status
Josh Pellow and Annamarie Bauer from the DNR presented information about the White Pine Trail project. They explained the scope of the entire project which includes the unpaved portion from Reed City to LeRoy. They spoke about the funding which is entirely comprised from grant sources. They shared a handout with Commissioners as well as provided a map of the entire 40.8 mile project. Josh highlighted benefits of the trail. They explained they will be completing the project using crushed limestone in the areas not currently paved. Although they have some of the funding they are reaching out to the local communities to gather the remainder of the funding. They requested the Board consider giving $15,000 to the project. Discussion was held.

Financing of Sheriff's Department Renovation Project
Susan Vander Pol, County Coordinator, explained how she along with Undersheriff Justin Halladay and County Treasurer, Lori Leudeman, have reached the recommendation for funding the jail renovation project. A brief discussion followed.
Recommended by Commissioner Nehmer, supported by Commissioner Tiedt, for the Sheriff's Department Renovation project to be paid with $50,000 from the 295 Fund, up to an additional $50,000 to come from the 245 Fund in 2015 and a loan established for the remainder for the project from the 298 Fund with repayment at $50,000 per year from the 295 Fund at 1% interest until the balance is paid back. Recommendation was unanimously supported.

Updated Policies & Procedures
Susan Vander Pol, County Coordinator, spoke about several policies recommended for updates by the committee at this time. The committee will continue to review all policies and bring them to the Board as they progress. The Department Head Definition Policy adds a few more departments which have developed or changed over the years. The Longevity Policy puts in place a deadline to submit an employee's request for their longevity pay. Discussion was held.

Recommended by Commissioner Tiedt, supported by Commissioner Wayne, to approve the updated Department Head and Longevity Pay policies. Recommendation was unanimously supported.

The Pay Procedures Policy changes all payroll to paperless. Karen Bluhm, County Clerk, reported the majority of payroll is being done electronically for employees. She explained many employers are switching to paperless and shared some of the advantages. Discussion was held.

Recommended by Commissioner Wayne, supported by Commissioner Tiedt, to adopt the Pay Procedures policy with an implementation date of the first pay period in April 2015. Recommendation was unanimously supported.

Susan spoke about the updated Smoking & Tobacco Use Policy pointing out a few changes and the reasoning behind the changes. Discussion was held.

Recommended by Commissioner Wayne, supported by Commissioner Tiedt, to approve the updated Smoking Policy effective March 1, 2015. Recommendation was unanimously supported.

Budget Amendment and County Treasurer's Journal Register Report
Commissioner Tiedt reviewed the one budget amendment presented.

Recommended by Commissioner Tiedt, supported by Commissioner Gregory, to approve the 2015 budget amendments and the December 2014 County Treasurer's Journal Register as submitted. Recommendation was unanimously supported.

E.M.S. Northwest Quadrant
Chairman Emig reported he along with Susan Vander Pol, County Coordinator, Jeremy Beebe, E.M.S. Director and Bob Van Putten from Landmark met with Tustin Village and Burdell Township officials to review the E.M.S. base proposal.
Letter of Support for Railway Feasibility Study
Commissioner Elkins asked the Board to consider sending a letter of support for a grant to conduct a feasibility study of rail service to the Evart area. He explained why the Evart Local Development Finance Authority is exploring this option. Discussion was held.

Recommended by Commissioner Elkins, supported by Commissioner Tiedt, to send a letter of support for the Local Development Finance Authority for the City of Evart's application for a Rural Business Enterprise Grant through the United States Department of Agriculture. Recommendation was supported with Commissioner Wayne voting no.

Employee/Board Comments: None.

Extended Public Comments: Floyd and Denise Justus-20432 Mackinaw Trail-Tustin, MI addressed the Board.

Moved by Commissioner Elkins, supported by Commissioner Nehmer to adjourn at 11:03 a.m. Motion carried.

Karen J. Bluhm, County Clerk

Larry Emig, Chairman