FINANCE AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE
Wednesday, April 8, 2020

The meeting was held via conference call; members of the public who utilized the public call-in line will not be listed in attendance.

PRESENT: D. Moore, C. Guy, L. Trucano, R. Pollard, T. McRae, D. Michael, J. Goggin, G. Glasper
ABSENT: None

The minutes from the March meeting was approved by all members present.

PURCHASE APPROVALS:

- $19,812.50 Payment of Legal Fees for County Board Personnel.
- $5,912.70 Two (2) APX 4000 7/800 MHZ Portable Radios and Accessories for the Coroner.
- $7,042.00 Equipment for 2020 for F-150 Pickup Truck for the Emergency Management Agency.
- $11,880.00 Boiler Removal at the Madison County Detention Home for Facilities Management.
- $17,693.00 Emergency Replacement of Entry Doors at Wood River Facility Employment and Training Entrance for Facilities Management.
- $19,957.00 Emergency Replacement of Operable Curtain Windows at the Criminal Justice Center for Facilities Management.
- $11,692.41 Sonicwall Secure Mobile Access Licenses and Service Agreement for Information Technology.

*Payment of Legal Fees for County Board Personnel was pulled.

Mr. McRae moved seconded by Mr. Pollard to approve the purchase approvals as presented. The ayes and nays being called on the motion to approve resulted in a vote as follows: AYES: D. Moore, C. Guy, L. Trucano, R. Pollard, T. McRae, D. Michael, J. Goggin NAYS: None. MOTION CARRIED.

*G. Glasper entered the meeting.

PURCHASE RESOLUTIONS:

The following purchase resolutions were presented:

1. Resolution to Purchase Professional Services: Medical Care at the Madison County Detention Home. The cost is $40,540.92.
2. Resolution to Award a Thirty-Six Month Fiber Internet Services Agreement for the Madison County Information Technology Department. The cost is $30,600.00.

Mr. Guy moved seconded by Ms. Glasper to approve the purchase resolutions as presented. The ayes and nays being called on the motion to approve resulted in a vote as follows: AYES: D. Moore, C. Guy, L. Trucano, R. Pollard, T. McRae, D. Michael, J. Goggin, G. Glasper NAYS: None. MOTION CARRIED.

Mr. Moore highlighted revisions that were made since the original resolution was presented at the last Finance meeting.

In-depth discussion was held on the Revised Resolution to Approve Additional Comp-Time and Benefits Outside of County Collective Bargaining Agreement by Auditor, State’s Attorney, Sheriff and Recorder during COVID-19 Response. The members of the Finance Committee along with many others took turns asking questions and voicing their concerns of the resolution at hand. Please listen to the audio for the full discussion.

Mr. McRae moved seconded by Mr. Guy to approve the revised resolution as presented. The ayes and nays being called on the motion to approve resulted in a vote at follows: AYES: G. Glasper

CLAIMS AND TRANSFERS REPORT:


Mr. Guy moved seconded by Ms. Glasper to approve the claims and transfers report as presented. The ayes and nays being called on the motion to approve resulted in a vote at follows: AYES: D. Moore, C. Guy, L. Trucano, R. Pollard, T. McRae, D. Michael, J. Goggin, G. Glasper NAYS: None. MOTION CARRIED.

IMMEDIATE EMERGENCY APPROPRIATIONS:

The following Immediate Emergency Appropriation was presented:

1. Immediate Emergency Appropriation – Museum.

Mr. Guy moved seconded by Ms. Glasper to approve the immediate emergency appropriation as presented. The ayes and nays being called on the motion to approve resulted in a vote at follows: AYES: D. Moore, C. Guy, L. Trucano, R. Pollard, T. McRae, D. Michael, J. Goggin, G. Glasper NAYS: None. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTEL TAX RECONCILIATION:

Months collected: November 2019 – January 2020

Total amount collected: $996.62
5% Admin withheld: $49.83
Amount to be distributed: $946.79
Amount to Greater Alton/Twin Rivers Bureau: $473.39
Amount to SW IL Tourism Bureau: $473.39

Mr. Guy moved seconded by Ms. Glasper to approve the motel tax reconciliation as presented. The ayes and nays being called on the motion to approve resulted in a vote at follows: AYES: D. Moore, C.
Guy, L. Trucano, R. Pollard, T. McRae, D. Michael, J. Goggin, G. Glasper NAYS: None. MOTION CARRIED.

REFUNDS:

$65.00 Refund issued from Recorder to (1) individual for overpayment.
$190.00 Refund issued from Animal Control to (6) individuals for overpayment on registration fees.

Mr. Guy moved seconded by Ms. Glasper to approve the refunds as presented. The ayes and nays being called on the motion to approve resulted in a vote as follows: AYES: D. Moore, C. Guy, L. Trucano, R. Pollard, T. McRae, D. Michael, J. Goggin, G. Glasper NAYS: None. MOTION CARRIED.

MONTHLY BUDGET REPORTS:

The monthly budget reports were presented to the committee.

D. Moore noted we are 25% into FY2020 and have expended 16.7%. He also said there are some salary expenses that are over budget (comp-time termination, vacation termination, holidays worked, sick pay and sick pay termination).

Mr. Moore presented his “Red Zone Review”.

SAFETY AND RISK MANAGEMENT REPORT:

None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

R. Faccin spoke of a lawsuit that has legal fees upwards of $200k.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

The following public comments were submitted via email:

Sierra Koelker:
When non-essential County Employees are given paid time off for not working, employees who are deemed essential should be equally compensated. Period. First Responders and Jail Employees often face danger in their jobs and they do not and should not receive hazard pay. However, they should be equally compensated for reporting to work when other employees are paid to stay at home. They are risking their lives and their families lives by reporting for each shift during this crisis. The least we could do as county citizens is provide them with their ordinary benefits - just as we would if this were a snow day. Please take care of our First Responders and Jail Attendants who take care of us every day, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Thank you.
Mark Ryan:
When “non-essential” County employees are given paid time off for not working, employees who are deemed essential should be equally compensated. First Responders and Jail Employees often face danger in their jobs and do not ask for hazard pay, but they should be equally compensated for reporting to work when other employees are paid to stay at home. The fact that this has to even be debated is just another illustration, in a long list, of the Board Chairman’s, and his associates, complete disregard for county employees and their families. It would have better served Mr. Prenzler and Ms. Dutton to have actually contacted Sheriff Lakin and the other heads of departments about this common practice before providing knee-jerk reaction quotes to The Telegraph in their political games. I sincerely hope that this is their last term “serving” Madison County.

Megan Baugh:
When non-essential County Employees are given paid time off for not working employees who are deemed essential should be equally compensated. First Responders, and Jail Employees often face danger in their jobs and they do not and should not receive hazard pay but they should be equally compensated for reporting to work when other employees are paid to stay at home.

Angie Kirkpatrick:
I commend the men and women working as first responders and essential employees for Madison County. They go to work and put themselves in potential danger and deserve hazardous pay without a doubt.

Kyle Kirkpatrick:
It is completely absurd to believe that the Sheriff's Department and other Essential Employees don't deserve compensation time for working during this COVID-19 pandemic. These individuals are going above and beyond to keep their facilities clean and are attempting to avoid the spread of this virus to others around them. During this hazardous time, all essential employees are putting not only themselves at risk of this virus, but also their loved ones around them which is extremely dangerous. If you think that these individuals aren't worthy of hazard pay during this lockdown period while numerous other Madison County employees are sitting at home while still earning pay as if they're at work is complete nonsense. This matter shouldn't be of question whether these individuals should get hazardous pay.

Michael Keshner:
I have read many articles about Kurt Prenzler and his attack on the Madison County Sheriff's Office. I don't agree with what he is doing. I agree with the following statement. When non-essential County Employees are given paid time off for not working employees who are deemed essential should be equally compensated. First Responders, and Jail Employees often face danger in their jobs and they do not and should not receive hazard pay but they should be equally compensated for reporting to work when other employees are paid to stay at home. Thank you a Madison County Resident.

Bradley Woelfel:
To whomever it may concern: When non-essential County Employees are given paid time off for not working employees who are deemed essential should be equally compensated. First Responders, and Jail Employees often face danger in their jobs and they do not and should not receive hazard pay but they should be equally compensated for reporting to work when other employees are paid to stay at home. Thank you for your cooperation and assistance in this matter.
Michael Tassone:
I am writing in regards to the First Responders/Essential Employees receiving compensation for having to work the frontlines of this pandemic. They are going out there and staring this pandemic right in the eye while others are sent home with pay. And not to say others would not do the same but have no choice in the matter as these essential workers have no choice in the matter as well. Not to mention this doesn’t just affect the employee but it extends to putting their families at risk as well. I as that everyone votes yes, to compensate these workers. Any other outcome would be a slap in the face to all First Responders and Essential workers.

Linda Wiegand
With all the stories on the news about the heroics of these brave Responders and Essential Employees that we cannot do without, and literally put themselves in harms way, Madison County should honor them and give them extra pay. The non-essential employees are getting paid for not working. This is not right. As a Madison County taxpayer I am very upset at this. What does it matter trying to give comp time if he or she comes in contact the virus and gets severely sick or God forgive they die. This is insane. All over this country cities, counties, states are honoring these wonderful people and it is a disgrace what the county is trying to do. Shameful. Think again and ponder what should be an easy decision.

Will Dimitroff:
When non-essential County Employees are given paid time off for not working, employees who are deemed essential should be equally compensated. First responders and jail employees often face danger in their jobs and they do not and should not receive hazard pay. They should be equally compensated for reporting to work when other employees are paid to stay at home.

David Saffell:
How do you justify allowing non-essential county employees paid time off, but county employees who have been deemed essential, to not be compensated in any way? First responders and jail employees face dangers in their jobs and they should not receive hazard pay but they should be equally compensated for reporting to work when other county employees are allowed to remain at home out of harms way. From what the papers have written this appears to be nothing more than a political stunt, which is not surprising during an election year in the People's Republic of Madison County. There is absolutely no way that you can adequately justify your actions for withholding compensation / comp time, from essential county employees. Again, fact that you are allowing non-essential county employees to remain at home and collect a check without adequately compensating essential county employees shows exactly how out of touch with reality you all really are. I pray that the elected officials, who are against adequately compensating your essential county employees are all voted out of office at the end of your term.

Darin Kerwin:
When non-essential County Employees are given paid time off for not working employees who are deemed essential should be equally compensated. First Responders, and Jail Employees often face danger in their jobs and they do not and should not receive hazard pay but they should be equally compensated for reporting to work when other employees are paid to stay at home. This is also not "what they signed up for" when they became officers. They knew there were possible dangers and risk to themselves with the job, however they did not sign up to bring that danger/hazard to their families, which is what they are facing during this pandemic. While the safety of nonessential employees and their families is the reason for them being home paid and is a responsible move, I think the responsible thing to do is give some form of compensation to those who are working during this unprecedented time because of the risk to their families.
Darren Onwiler:
To whom it may concern, We are all going through trying times right now, this is a given. There are employees at Madison County that have been deemed “non-essential”. These people have been told to stay home, and are still receiving their paychecks. This is a good thing, they can stay home, take care of their family, and do what they can to mitigate the spread of the virus. All the while still being able to pay their bills and feed their family. Then we come to the essential employees. First responders, jail personnel, dispatchers, and all the others that protect lives and keep the machine moving. We don’t ask for anything more or special. But we do ask to be treated fairly. Many departments can still function at the level required with reduced staff during this time. Those additional employees should be allowed the same benefit as those deemed non-essential. These employees should also be paid. For those essential employees still at their jobs, they also should be compensated equally. This is only fair. We are not asking for extra, hazard pay, just to be treated fairly, that is all. I hope all of you will take this to heart. We will keep working, protecting lives, keeping things going. Accepting possible exposure, accepting additional risk, to us and our families. Fairness is all we ask in return.

Terry Driscoll:
To Whom It May Concern - For Public Comment-During these uncertain times in our country, it takes the community as a whole to come together to ensure our country continues to function. There are multiple levels of support required, but the priority to ensure we do not fall into complete chaos starts with the first responders; fire, medical and police. It has been brought to my attention that non-essential employees with the county are being given paid time off, but the men and women on the front line that are deemed essential, are not being equally compensated for work that is required to keep our County safe. As a business owner, I am also considered essential, but I have the choice of closing my doors to the public and keeping my employees safe. The same cannot be said for our men and women in blue that respond to each call with the uncertainty of who they will be approaching. I am asking that the County provides equal compensation to First Responders and Jail Employees during the COVID-19 Pandemic. Our First Responders continue to provide us with unwavering protection and support no matter what the situation entails, and these extreme conditions warrant equal compensation for these hero’s for putting their lives on the line when they walk out of the safety of their own home. I can’t say this is above and beyond what is expected of our men and women in uniform, because they knowingly risk their lives on a daily basis. But to be equally compensated for the hazards they are encountering on a daily basis compared to those non-essential employees that are enjoying the comforts of home is NOT a stretch. Thank you for your consideration and I hope you make the fair and wise choice in this matter and support equal compensation for essential employees.

Stacy Keshner:
I agree that the Sheriffs Dept deserves compensation while non-essential employees are paid not to work. Kurt Prenzler is WRONG thinking this will hurt the community. I stand by the Sheriff’s Dept decisions to compensate their employees. The following is a statement that I feel is true. When non-essential County Employees are given paid time off for not working employees who are deemed essential should be equally compensated. First Responders, and Jail Employees often face danger in their jobs and they do not and should not receive hazard pay but they should be equally compensated for reporting to work when other employees are paid to stay at home.

Jeff Lagemann:
It is shameful how chairman Prenzler has used this situation to try and score political points with the public. His comments about the Sheriff’s Department were simply flat out wrong, either unintentionally or intentionally. There is no overtime paid out if a deputy uses comp time. He talked about the health department being the hardest working department in the county right now and then immediately said they are mostly working from home. It's great that they are working so hard, and have done a good job. However they are doing most of their work in the safety of their own homes. Their families are not sharing in their risk. At this time Sheriff’s Deputies are not only placing themselves in jeopardy, but also their
families. They can't work from home. I consider myself a conservative libertarian. I am certainly against government waste. However, Prenzler’s use of this incident to try and make the budget case is disgraceful. If he wants to make a dent in the budget maybe he should start with his own house and the well paid (some would say over paid) positions that were created for his political allies. Mr. Prenzler remove the plank from your eye before you complain about the speck in your brothers.

Tom Cromer:
First responders and those deemed essential employees who have been showing up to work every day, while other county employees have "earned" their wages while sitting at home, should be compensated with comp time. At what point did we lose our common sense. It's not pay, it's a day off down the road that does NOT require any overtime to be paid out. False claims and ignorance on the topic is not justification for denying a fair compensation for loyal employees.

Brian Stipcak:
In light of the Coronavirus Pandemic, many of the highest authorities in the state, as well as the nation, have deemed it necessary to distance ourselves from one another, to include the closing of many businesses. Due to this, many hard working people have been left unemployed. Many non-essential county employees have been relieved of their duties, temporarily, but are still getting paid full wages. I'm not against this by any means, however, essential employees do not get this same treatment. First Responders and Jail Personnel are on the front lines every day, not only dealing with the dangers that the job brings, but now with an invisible enemy that no one can see. First responders do not get hazard pay for the dangerous job they perform, nor should they. But if numerous county employees are allowed to stay home and receive full pay, then essential employees who have to work should be compensated as well.

Deputy John Norton #266:
To you we don’t matter, we are just numbers you have to add into your yearly budget. You don’t look at us as people. Men and women with people who care about our safety. Men and woman with families, friends, and loved ones who would be devastated if anything ever happened to us. We also would be devastated if we were the cause of anything happening to someone we care about. Your use of this situation, and us as political pawns is a complete and utter lack of respect for services we as First Responder and Essential Employees provide. Those of us who are answering the call, working the front lines, are endangering not only ourselves, but our families as well on a daily basis during this crisis. It sickens me to think that each day I put on my uniform and work to protect my community that I can come into contact with someone who may expose me, and then possibly I might expose my family as well. It is completely unfair that you would allow nonessential employees to work from home, or even allow employees in some cases to just stay home and still get paid in order to have them avoid contact with those that may be infected. We on the front lines should be treated fair, and should receive compensation for our efforts.

L.A. Butkovich:
When non-essential County Employees are given paid time off for not working employees who are deemed essential should be equally compensated. First Responders, and Jail Employees often face danger in their jobs and they do not and should not receive hazard pay but they should be equally compensated for reporting to work when other employees are paid to stay at home.

Ryan Ray:
I'm writing this email with concern that political issues are playing a role that will determine whether or not First Responders/Essential Employees will receive "Comp" time while working during the Covid 19 Pandemic. Non-essential employees are currently off with full pay and benefits which is understandable, however I feel the First Responders/Essential Employees should be afforded the same opportunity for paid time off as this Pandemic comes to an end in the coming months. This would not cause additional cost to
the county due to the fact that "Comp" time does not create overtime. Some may say this is a complaint, however it most certainly is not, it's just a request for equal treatment.

Sydnie E. Williams:
To Whom It May Concern, In reference to COVID-19 and government shut down. When non-essential County employees are given paid time off for not working. Employees who are deemed essential should be equally compensated. First Responders, and Jail Employees often face danger in their jobs and they do not and should not receive hazard pay but they should be equally compensated for reporting to work when other employees are paid to stay at home.

Michael Barrett:
When non-essential County Employees are given paid time off for not working employees who are deemed essential should be equally compensated. First Responders, and Jail Employees often face danger in their jobs and they do not and should not receive hazard pay but they should be equally compensated for reporting to work when other employees are paid to stay at home.

Roy Pickerill:
Gentlemen, I am writing you as a conservative voter that primarily votes Republican. I am ashamed that the Republican Kurt Prenzler Would go against first responders and the essential employees of the Madison County Sheriff's office. As a conservative I believe our Law enforcement community is Essential to the order in our community. Nonessential employees of Madison County have been sent home due to COVID-19 and are currently receiving their full pay and benefits. At the same time sheriff’s deputies, jail deputies and essential employees are working for the same pay that nonessentials are receiving for staying at home and not working. The sheriff and other department heads gave their essential employees comp time to equal the time nonessential employees are receiving for staying home. I feel that this was the fair and the right thing to do. They comp time when used would not be an additional cost to Madison county as comp time is not backfilled with overtime when an employee uses it. This would allow essential employees the equal amount of time off as nonessential employees at a later date.

Jeremy Stumpf:
The vast majority of Madison County employees who have been designated non-essential are being compensated with unearned paid time off during this crisis. At the same time Madison County employees deemed as essential employees are required to work without being equally compensated with time off. This is not only unfair practices but is also putting undue stress on our critical agencies in which we rely on most during times like these. By requiring all essential employees to report to work to be exposed to this Covid-19 risk, we stand to lose more essential manpower all at once whereas this could be avoided by having some in the safety of their homes and available to fill in when the virus begins to hit our critical agencies.

Jeff Schwierjohn:
I do think the essential employees of the Madison County Sheriff's Office should be compensated fairly for the time they are working when other non-essential employees are not working with compensation. I agree extra hazard pay should not be granted or accepted under the circumstances nor was it asked for. It is fair under the circumstances for the essential employees to receive some degree of comp time for coming in not because of our own risks we all know we signed up for originally. The potential risk of the virus being brought home to family is more of a concern. I don't view myself in the essential employee group myself with courts on hold under the circumstances other than I do work for the Sheriff's Office. I do agree with and support the principal on fair compensation for all personnel trying to be conveyed!
Dana Brindley:
To whom it may concern: When non-essential county employees are given paid time off for not working, employees who are deemed essential should be equally compensated. First Responders, and Jail Employees often face danger in their jobs and should be equally compensated for reporting to work when other employees are paid to stay at home.

Chris Brindley:
When non-essential County employees are given paid time off for not working, employees who are deemed essential should be equally compensated. Deputies, and Jail Staff regularly face danger in their jobs, but do not receive hazard pay. They should however be equally compensated for reporting to work when other employees are paid to stay at home and not work.

Stephanie McSparin:
To Whom It May Concern, I understand that due to the current COVED-19 pandemic we are all in uncharted waters. I also understand having employees that are considered non-essential protected by not reporting to work is probably the right to do. I also know that some people can do their work from home. It is my understanding that on March 16, 2020, Madison County Administrator Doug Hulme sent an email to various Madison County Department Heads regarding compensating employees who are not reporting to work, whether they are deemed essential or non-essential. Mr. Hulme’s directive even told supervisors if an employee had benefit time scheduled, to cancel the benefit time off, change the pay code to PTO (Paid Time Off), and just pay the employee. So, basically all of the employees sent home are still being paid their regular pay for staying in the safety of their home. I personally have no problem with this, I understand the seriousness of this issue. Originally I was sent home, and my family and I were all exercising all the recommend precautions. On April 1, 2020 I was told to return to work, and I did. I do however, feel that returning to work is putting not only my health in jeopardy, but quite possible my entire family’s health, including my elderly parents. I know we are all taking precautions, but the more contact we have with the general public, the more we are at risk. I believe that the sacrifices and risks that the employees of the Madison County Sheriff’s Office are making and being exposed to everyday, by simply reporting to work, should be compensated in some way. If the County is paying employees for staying home and not working, why can’t the County equally compensate the employees that are dedicated and reporting to work putting not only themselves, but their entire families at risk. If we as essential employees reporting to work are compensated one (1) hour of comp-time, for every hour that other employees are paid to stay home, I believe that would be fair compensation. At the Sheriff’s Office we closely manage our comp-time, and our policy is that taking comp-time cannot cause overtime. With this policy in mind the comp-time compensation will not cause any additional burden on the County’s budget or payroll. Again, I do not have an issue with paying the employees that are staying home. As a Madison County resident and taxpayer I believe that all of the County’s employees should be treated fairly and compensated equally.

Tim Walker:
Dear Members of the Finance Committee, I am disgusted with, and felt personally attacked by the comments made by Kurt Prenzler in the recent story ran in the Madison/St. Clair Record. Mr. Prenzler did not state the facts, and misrepresented most of the employees of Madison County as villains attempting to profit from the current pandemic. Apparently, by the comments he made, Mr. Prenzler feels as if the Health Department is the only department working hard at this time. When non-essential County Employees are given paid time off for not working, employees who are deemed essential should be equally compensated. First Responders, and Jail Employees often face danger in their jobs and do not ask for, and should not receive hazard pay. However, they should be equally compensated for reporting to work when other employees are paid to stay home. When going to work during a pandemic such as the one we face today, First Responders aren’t only taking a risk with their own lives, but the lives of the ones they must go home to at night. Mr. Prenzler now is not the time for scoring political points!
Josh Bogle:
Please support first responders and essential employees during this tough time.

Andrew Johnson:
In reference to the uneducated response by Kurt Prenzler in regards to comp time for Sheriff’s Office Employees, the comp time was not requested due to the hazardous nature of COVID19. Rather, we are union employees and some union members were allowed to stay home with pay. In order to maintain equality, all union members were provided equal pay via comp time. So do not misunderstand, we know that we signed up to be in harms way on a regular basis, no matter the threat, while Kurt Prenzler hides out at home and fabricates information for the media. And don't worry, we will continue to do so. However, as union members, we do expect to be compensated equally.

Jacob Svoboda:
When non-essential County Employees are given paid time off for not working employees who are deemed essential should be equally compensated. First Responders, and Jail Employees often face danger in their jobs and they do not and should not receive hazard pay but they should be equally compensated for reporting to work when other employees are paid to stay at home.

Jason Thatcher:
please support first responders and essential employees during these tough times.

Matt Werner:
PLEASE SUPPORT OUR LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS!!! When non-essential County Employees are given paid time off for not working employees who are deemed essential should be equally compensated. First Responders, and Jail Employees often face danger in their jobs and they do not and should not receive hazard pay but they should be equally compensated for reporting to work when other employees are paid to stay at home.

Cody Stewart:
When non-essential County Employees are given paid time off for not working employees who are deemed essential should be equally compensated. First Responders, and Jail Employees often face danger in their jobs and they do not and should not receive hazard pay but they should be equally compensated for reporting to work when other employees are paid to stay at home.

David Schneidewind:
When non-essential County Employees are given paid time off for not working employees who are deemed essential should be equally compensated. First Responders, and Jail Employees often face danger in their jobs and they do not and should not receive hazard pay but they should be equally compensated for reporting to work when other employees are paid to stay at home.

Bill Crain:
I have read both sides of the issue of comp time given to essential personnel. I agree with the first responders on this issue. How can the county administration hand out paid days off to NON-essential personnel and not ESSENTIAL personnel. If a paid day off is awarded to a select group of employees, then ALL employees get a day off with pay. This is definitely not a hazard pay issue. It seems like the County Administration is trying to avoid the issue that they created with their knee-jerk reaction to just pay people to stay home and not work. Apparently, the Sheriff ended giving his people comp time April 1st. However, as a taxpayer, how long is the county administration going to pay people to stay home and do NOTHING? That is the real waste of money. Again, I support our first responders on this issue. At a time when delivery drivers, retail workers, and grocery workers are getting extra pay, the least we can do
for our first responders is give them equal pay and benefits to those that are given to other non-essential county workers!

“No name” jj2collman:
I think that there should be equal compensation for those who have to work, if others are getting paid to stay home.

Timothy Hernandez:
For Public Comment: When non-essential Madison County Employees are given paid time off for not working, employees who are deemed essential should be equally compensated. First Responders and Jail Employees often face danger in their jobs and should be equally compensated for reporting to work when other employees are paid to stay at home.

Nikki Turner:
As a tax paying citizen I am tired of seeing the childish behavior that continues to happen but when it impacts those that put their lives on the line, I have to express my frustration. The public spat about the Sheriff’s classification of essential and non-essential staff and how they are compensated hits close to home. Because of your childish behavior you have put people at risk and now left no choice but to provide no ability to plan for the future by forcing the sheriff to put more deputies on the road in a time when they should be planning for the days ahead. If deputies contract this virus while in the line of duty, leaving fewer deputies to cover shifts, you will have yourselves to blame. When non-essential County Employees are given paid time off for not working, employees who are deemed essential should be equally compensated. First Responders and Jail Employees often face danger in their jobs and they do not and should not receive hazard pay but they should be equally compensated for reporting to work when other employees are paid to stay at home. I hope we never have to deal with a crisis like this in the future. But if we do, I hope you will think twice about putting politics ahead of public safety and the health of those willing to serve.

Jason Sandidge:
When non-essential County Employees are given paid time off for not working employees who are deemed essential should be equally compensated. First Responders, and Jail Employees often face danger in their jobs, they do not and should not receive hazard pay but they should be equally compensated for reporting to work when other employees are paid to stay at home.

Andrew Friedrich:
Over the past several days I have been extremely angry over comments that Chairman Kurt Prenzler made in the media regarding the Sheriff’s Office and Comp Time. It is obvious that Mr. Prenzler has no idea what Comp Time is or how it is used. The fact that Prenzler is making these comments from the safety and comfort of his home is equally frustrating. Our First Responders have been asked to continue to do their job while potentially exposing themselves and their families to this deadly virus. Not one First Responder has complained about going to work and are proud to be on the front line of this battle. That is not the issue. The issues is providing equal compensation for the employees that are working on an everyday basis while other Union members are allowed to stay home with pay. There is no one who cares more about his employees than Sheriff John Lakin. Mr. Prenzler the fact that you went to the media and attempted to misinform the public is truly disgusting. It is time for you and the rest of the County Board to step up and do the right thing.

Mr. Pollard moved, seconded by Mr. McRae to adjourn the meeting. MOTION CARRIED.

/mds