**Minutes**

**PRESENT:** Commissioner Brann, Commissioner Harvell, Commissioner Barker

Meeting held by Zoom

**Franklin County Commissioners Meeting**

**February 15, 2022 Minutes**

Meeting was called to order by Commissioner Brann at 3:15 PM

Pledge of Allegiance

**Audience:**  Jim Desjardins, Pamela Prodan, Susan Pratt, Susan Black, MBTV, David Rackliffe, Tiffany Baker, Donna Perry, Charlie Woodworth, Annie Twitchell, Fen Fowler, Mike Pond, Nick Palmer, Michelle St. Clair, Bob Carlton, Tim Hardy, Diane Dunham, Peter Marchesi, Dick Morton, Cheryl Osborne

**APPOINTMENTS:**

**3:15PM: Executive Session: 1 MRSA 405 (6) (E), Consult with Legal Council: Motion to enter Executive Session: (Clyde/Lance) (3/0)**

Enter: 3:16pm, Exit: 4:00pm

**Motion to accept the settlement agreement with Julie Magoon: (Lance/Clyde) (3/0)**

**Executive Session: 1 MRSA 405 (6) (A), Personnel Matter: EMA Director**

**Motion to enter Executive Session: (Lance/Clyde) (3/0)**

Enter at 5:42 pm, Exit: 6:04pm

**No action taken.**

**Executive Session: 1 MRSA 405 (6) (A), Personnel Matter: DA’s Office: Motion to enter Executive Session: (Clyde/Terry) (3/0)**

Enter: 5:26pm, Exit: 5:36pm

**Motion to allow an employee within the DA’s office to receive benefits at 30 days of employment: (Lance/Clyde) (3/0)**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. **Clerk’s Report:** January 18, 2022 amended minutes and February 1, 2022 minutes for approval. **Motion to approve: (Lance/Clyde) (3/0)**
2. **Treasurer Report:** Warrants presented by Pamela Prodan for approval. **Motion to approve and sign the warrants: (Clyde/Lance) (3/0)** Audit completed for financial statements for 2021. Pam will provide the Commissioners a copy of the report via electronically or paper copies. A routine letter and management letter are included in the packet. The routine letter is regarding specifics of the audit. Management letter provides information on audit laws and practices. Bank reconciliations for January 2022 include Bangor Savings TIF and Skowhegan UT. Pam provided an expense summary report to the Commissioners.
3. **Twice Sold Tales, Permission to use the Courthouse parking lot:** Amber Stone requested use of the parking lot for a fundraiser on May 2, 2022 from 12 PM to 12 AM and use a fire pit in a contained, elevated bowl. Amber received permissions from the Farmington Police Chief, Ken Charles, however the Commissioners would like her to seek approval from the Farmington Fire Chief and provide the specifics on height for the fire “bowl” as the heat could damage the parking lot if sitting too close to the ground. **Motion to have the use of fire “bowl” approved by the Farmington Fire Chief and Amber to provide the specs on height of the fire “bowl”. If approved by Fire Chief, the Commissioners approve use of parking lot for fundraiser. (Lance/Clyde) (3/0)**
4. **John Donald, Pay adjustment for Wyatt Haynes:** John Donald requestsa pay increase for experience for Wyatt Haynes from a rate of $18.26 to $20.29. **Motion to approve the increase based on experience for Wyatt Haynes to a rate of $20.29: (Lance/Clyde) (3/0)**
5. **Lt. Rackliffe, donation to the K9 program: Rackliffe received an anonymous donation to the K9 program and the donor asked Rackliffe what was needed of which he informed the donor that one K9 vehicle needs insert and door popper which estimates at about $3,000. The anonymous donor would like to donate $4,000 to the K9 program for these items. Motion to accept the donation of $4,000 from an anonymous donor: (Clyde/Lance) (3/0)**
6. **County Operation s on Snow Days:** Draft policy presented by Tiffany Baker, Human Resources. Terry Brann had originally requested to add sick time to the Inclement Weather Policy, however sick time cannot be used for this, so it will be removed. Andy brought up telecommuting for his staff on inclement days. He would like to approve employees working from home on poor weather days. The Commissioners requested that HR look into what other counties are doing and see who else would be considered for telecommuting in inclement weather. Will revisit at the next meeting.
7. **ARPA Projects:**
* **Hybrid vehicle equipment approval: Motion to approve the purchase of vehicle equipment for the Sheriff’s Department in the amount of $49,100: (Lance/Clyde) (3/0)**

**Review of current Proposals and updates:**

* **Broadband:** Charlie Woodworth presented a proposal including Washington/Perkins Plantation for broadband which will serve 4600 residents between Wilton, Weld, Washington and Perkins Twp. Wilton has committed to $315k for the project and Weld has committed to $287k leaving a balance for Franklin County in the amount of $240,292. The Commissioners questioned whether or not the TIF funds would cover the UT portion of this project. Charlie argued that he would like this money to come from ARPA as it shows the state the county’s commitment to broadband. The Commissioners discussed partial funding from both the TIF and ARPA funds. **Motion to approve the broadband project in the amount of $240,292, $40,000 to come from ARPA funds, and $200,292 from the TIF funds:** **(Lance/Clyde) (2/1) Terry opposed.**
* **Broadband Planning:** Charlie Woodworth presented the planning project for broadband in the amount of $40,000. Motion to approve funding the broadband planning project from the TIF funds in the amount of $40,000: (Lance/Clyde) (2/1)
* **Drainage project:** Design is complete. The project needs to go out to bid. Motion made and withdrawn by Clyde. Mike Pond recommended the county wait until the ground is thawed.Sue to create an RFP for the drainage inside the jail.
* **Interest earned on ARPA funds and balance used:** Terry Brann asked Sue what the amount of interest earned on the funds is thus far. Sue provided that as of December, we have earned $1,864.66 in interest. Money spent on projects so far is $927,491. If these projects presented today are approved, the county will have spent $1,379,222 to date.
* **Laptop Proposal:** The proposal was reduced to four laptops, 2 for Probate, 1 for HR, and 1 for a Dispatch Supervisor in the total amount of $3,160.84. **Motion to approve the purchase of four laptops using ARPA funds in the amount of $3,160.84: (Lance/Clyde) (2/1) Terry opposed.**
* **Jail engineering and design proposal: Motion to approve the jail engineering and design in the amount of $38,000: (Clyde/Lance) (3/0)**
* **Memorial arch project in the amount of $40,000: Clyde made a motion, motion failed.**
* **Safe Voices Project:** Farmington is contributing $10k toward the project. Letter has been sent to all municipalities for support, waiting to hear back from some. **Motion to approve funding the project from ARPA funds in the amount of $50,000: (Lance/Clyde) (2/1) Terry opposed.**
* **Fueling system at the Sheriff’s Department:** Town of Farmington usage is 33%, and the County uses 66.6%.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. **Schoolhouse Road Bridge, Madrid: Jo Richmond who requested this be on the agenda did not appear on Zoom on this topic, therefore it was not discussed.**

**MISCELLANEOUS:**

1. **Peter Axelson abatement hearing:** Presented two dates for the hearing, May 3 or May 10. Commissioners agreed to hold the hearing on May 10 at 3:15pm. HR to communicate this date and time with legal.
2. **Secretary job description for approval: Motion to approve the job description for Deeds Secretary: (Lance/Clyde) (2/1) Terry abstained.**
3. **Bids for paving project in Freeman Twp: Received one bid from Pike Industries in the amount of $93,769.94. Motion to accept the bid from Pike Industries in the amount of $93,769.94: (Clyde/Lance) (3/0)**

**Warrants: County-2, UT-1, TIF-1, Payroll-3, EFT-1 (Empower Retirement)**

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**A motion and second to adjourn. (Lance/Clyde) (3/0)**

**Meeting adjourned at 6:05 PM**

**Next regular meeting will be March 1, 2022**

**A recording is available for this meeting.**

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 FRANKLIN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, CLERK