

## **Minutes**

**PRESENT:** Commissioner Harvell (Zoom), Commissioner Carlton, Commissioner Brann

The meeting was held via: Zoom

**Franklin County Commissioners Meeting**

**July 2, 2024**

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Carlton at 10:00 a.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

**Audience (Present):** Ryan Close, Nathan Hiltz, Louise Hiltz, William Gilmore, Susan Black, Heidi Jordan, Charlie Woodward, Steven Lowell, Scott Nichols, Sarah Caton, Jake Nichols, Donna Perry, Robert Lightbody, Pam Prodan, Susan Pratt, Mt. Blue T.V., Jeff Gilbert, John Donald, David St. Laurent, Doug Blauvelt, Tiffany Baker, Jamie Sullivan, and Brenda Bittle.

**Audience (Zoom):** Marlene Bradley, Jessica Brown, Michelle Whittier, and Fen Fowler (Phone).

**APPOINTMENTS: None**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. **Clerk's Report- Motion to accept the Clerk's Report: Terry/Bob (2/0)**
2. **Treasurer's Report – Motion to accept Treasurer's Report: Terry/Bob (2/0)**
3. **Bids for Police Cruiser** – The Franklin County Sheriff's Department received bids for three (3) vehicles that they had budgeted for. Six (6) Bids were received from Quirk Auto Group. The Sheriff stated that they rotate out their vehicles every three years, based upon mileage. They do consistent upkeep on the vehicles, and have found that they get a better return price by bidding the vehicles out rather than trading them in. The Sheriff also stated that they will use funds from the Stone Garden Fund to help outfit the new vehicles. The two Interceptors are available now, and the Tahoe will be available in August. **Motion to accept bids from Quirk Auto Group for two (2) Ford Explorers and one (1) Tahoe in the amount of \$142,603: Terry/Bob (2/0)**
4. **William Gilmore – TIF Application for Emergency Operations Center** – Mr. Gilmore spoke regarding the TIF. He stated that he has been a committee member since 2008. He does not question the money requested, however, he does question the source where we are requesting funds from. He feels that a lot of people could benefit from the fund that are in need of assistance with heating their homes, with their electricity bills and food.
5. **Jail Medical Space – Final Plans and update on bids** – Benjamin Murray, President of A.E. Hodsdon Consulting Engineers of Waterville discussed the plans for going out to bid for the new medical space being added to the jail. The addition to the building will be 20 x 22.5 and will consist of an infirmary along with two (2) treatment rooms. He stated that A.E. Hodsdon will reach out personally to contractors as well as advertise and post locally. They are set to go out to bid between July 12<sup>th</sup> to July 15<sup>th</sup> and will accept bids for four (4) weeks. **Motion to accept design and go out to bid: Terry/Bob (2/0)**
6. **Payment and Performance Bond for the Emergency Operations Center** – At the May 21, 2024 Commissioner's meeting the Commissioners voted to not accept the separate performance bond for subcontractors, however, as part of receiving the congressional

spend, the USDA requires that we have a performance bond. **Motion to approve performance bond in the amount of \$30,609: Terry/Bob (2/0)**

7. **Trial Assistant 11 Job Description** – The job description for the Trial Assistant II was revised due to the increased in responsibilities and was approved during the budget process. **Motion to accept the Trial Assistant 11 Job Description: Terry/Bob (2/0)**

8. **Probate Part-time Clerk** – Heidi Jordan, Register of Probate requested that due to the increased volume of work, the part-time position be reinstated in the department, which has been vacant since she took office in 2021. The Register mentioned with the increase in passports services provided by the county a parttime clerk is needed, without this position being filled, she may have to eliminate that service, requiring the community to travel to Stratton, Livermore Falls, or Winthrop to apply for their passport. She indicated that this would be a disservice to our community. Probate is in the process of hiring a Deputy Register in anticipation of the current Deputy Register's retirement in August. **This matter was tabled until a Deputy Register is hired**

9. **Cafeteria Plan** – Eaton Peabody prepared a revised Cafeteria Plan for the County to ensure that the County was in compliance with the IRS rules and regulations regarding pre-taxed and post-taxed benefits it provided. **Motion to adopt and sign Cafeteria Plan Terry/Bob (2/0)**

10. **Carry Forward into Capital Reserve** - The following departments requested capital funds to carry forward:

- Treasurer: \$760 from computer line to IT Reserve/Server Upgrade
- Communications: \$4,000 from Equipment and Furniture line to Dispatch Equipment Reserve
- Technical Services: \$7,600 from Equipment and Furniture line to IT Reserve/Server Upgrade
- Probate: \$1,187 from Equipment and Furniture line to Probate Equipment Reserve
- Jail: \$4,775 from Radio line to Jail Equipment Reserve
- Jail: \$2,123 from Computer line to IT Reserve/Server Upgrade
- Jail: \$57,000 from Equipment and Furniture line to Jail Equipment Reserve
- Sheriff: \$3,000 from Tire line to Sheriff Equipment Reserve
- Sheriff: \$2,000 from Radio line to Sheriff Equipment Reserve

**Motion to approve the carry forward of the above funds in the total amount of \$82,445: Bob/Terry (2/0)**

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

1. **Coburn Gore Land Port – Right of Way Update** – Commissioner Carlton attended a Public Scoping Meeting for the Coburn Gore Land Port Right of Way on June 27, 2024. He stated that approximately 40 people were in attendance. He indicated that the project will improve the security of the U.S. Customs and Boarder Protection as the current port of entry is very dated. He also indicated that as it stands now, Commercial traffic is required to obtain a permit prior to crossing the border, with the expansion, commercial traffic will be able to receive permitting right at the port. The expansion is expected to be a lengthy process.

**MISCELLANEOUS:**

1. **United States Department of Interior – Payment in Lieu of Taxes** – On June 26, 2024, the U.S. Department of Interior issued payments under the Payment in Lieu of Taxes program. This payment is based upon acreage. Since the government cannot tax federal land, the Payment in Lieu of Taxes payments help to defray costs associated with that land.  
**Motion to Accept Payment in Lieu of Taxes: Bob/Terry (2/0)**
2. **Marlene Bradley** – Commissioner Carlton thanked Marlene for her 28 years of service with the County and wished her a happy retirement.

**WARRANTS: AP and UT – Motion to sign Warrants: Terry/Bob (2/0)**

**ADJOURNMENT: Motion to adjourn at 11:10 a.m. Terry/Bob (2/0)**

A recording is available for this meeting.

  
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FRANKLIN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

ATTEST:  CLERK