**HIGHWAY/BUILDING/GROUNDS/ENVIRONMENTAL/ZONING**

**AND WELFARE COMMITTEE**

**February 12, 2024**

Present: Thomas Snyder, Jr., Chairman, Ray Koonce, Clint Gabriel and David Buckles

Absent: Mike Specha

Others present: Mary Barry, Bryan Sharp, Betty Asmussen, Dwanna Kelmel, Cliff Frye, Ron Brown, Shawn Hammers, Blake Tarr, Lee Skinner, Dyanne Skinner, Rich Payne, Steve Craggs, Mike Whitehead, Jay Germann, Don Hayes, Shawn Franklin, Marcia Neal, Lucas Domonousky, and Elizabeth Hile in attendance.

The meeting of the Highway/Building/Grounds/Environmental/Welfare/Zoning Committee was called to order on Monday, February 12, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. in the Christian County Courthouse.  The purpose of the meeting was County building issues, highway business and any other matters properly brought before the Committee. Roll call was taken and there was a quorum.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Lee Skinner with Small Town Taylorville introduced himself to the committee and those in attendance. He noted that Small Town Taylorville submitted several applications for use of the courthouse lawn and would be happy to answer any questions related to those when they are discussed.

ANDERSON CEMETERY

Jay Germann, Trustee with the Anderson Cemetery presented the annual report. Additionally, he noted the cemetery’s permit will be expiring in August of 2024.

COURTHOUSE LAWN REQUESTS

The committee reviewed each application presented. Assistant States Attorney Barry asked if the certificate of insurance was provided and it has been.

Car Cruise

Motion by Thomas Snyder, Jr. and second by David Buckles to recommend to the full Board to approve the application for use of the courthouse lawn from Small Town Taylorville for Car Cruises on May 3, 2024; June 7, 2024; July 5, 2024; August 2, 2024; September 6, 2024 and October 11, 2024. A roll call vote polled all ayes. Motion carried.

Farmers Market

Motion by Ray Koonce and second by Thomas Snyder, Jr. to recommend to the full Board to approve the application for use of the courthouse lawn from Small Town Taylorville for Farmer’s Market on Saturdays only from May 4, 2024 – September 28, 2024. A roll call vote polled all ayes. Motion carried.

July 4th Parade followed by Mayor Barry’s Luncheon

Motion by David Buckles and second by Ray Koonce to recommend to the full Board to approve the application for use of the courthouse lawn from Small Town Taylorville for the July 4th Parade followed by Mayor Barry’s Luncheon on July 4, 2024 from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. A roll call vote polled all ayes. Motion carried.

Halloween Promenade and Contest

Motion by Thomas Snyder, Jr. and second by Ray Koonce to recommend to the full Board to approve the application for use of the courthouse lawn from Small Town Taylorville for the Halloween promenade and contest with a date TBD with setup on the day of the parade around 4:00 p.m. A roll call vote polled all ayes. Motion carried.

Christmas Decorating

Motion by Thomas Snyder, Jr. and second by David Buckles to recommend to the full Board to approve the application for use of the courthouse lawn from Small Town Taylorville to decorate the bushes and large pine on the east side of the courthouse lawn for the holiday season setting up in early November with removal after Christmas. A roll call vote polled all ayes. Motion carried.

ARPA FUNDING CONSIDERATION ASSUMPTION COMMUNITY CHILD CARE

Chairman Sharp advised the committee that Schales Nagle with Kemmerer Village will be present at the Executive, Personnel Committee Tuesday night. A presentation on this project was made to the full Board last month.

ZONING BUSINESS

Director’s Report

Blake Tarr highlighted zoning updates to include the revenue for the month of January, number of permit applications, and onsite inspections, etc. He also highlighted items on the agenda for the February ZBA meeting.

SOLID WASTE BUSINESS

Director’s Report

Shawn Hammers highlighted information on his monthly report to include inspection information, update on submitting a grant for Solid Waste Management Plan and SB1563 in regard to information on micro-plastics and their effects. The service contract for the IEPA entity that disposes of household hazardous waste (HHW) has lapsed and as a result this may impact HHW programs in 2024.

Office Equipment LSW/Zoning former ROE Office

Three (3) estimates for partitions and office equipment that will be needed as a result of the move from the current LSW/Zoning office to the former ROE office was provided.

Motion was made by Thomas Snyder, Jr. and second by David Buckles to approve the purchase of office partitions and desks from ULine not to exceed $5,000.00 and to refer to Finance for determination of line time and Board recommendation. A roll call vote polled all ayes. Motion carried.

HIGHWAY BUSINESS

Cliff advised there is no new business to discuss.

ANIMAL CONTROL

Dwanna Kelmel highlighted her department report which included information related to animals adopted and reclaimed, euthanized, revenue and donations as well as donations year to date total. She advised of an unscheduled inspection without issue. She also provided pictures of the lighting situation with animals coming in at night and provided cost estimates for lighting improvements. Lighting could be put on existing utility pole.

Lighting

Motion by Thomas Snyder, Jr. and second by David Buckles to recommend to the full Board to approve the installation of a 1000w flood light on the southeast side of the building with an anticipated increase in the utility billing of approximately $10.00 per month. A roll call vote polled all ayes. Motion carried.

COURTHOUSE AND BUILDING BUSINESS

HVAC and Window Project Update

Ron Brown, Maintenance Supervisor advised the windows on the 1st and 2nd floor have almost all been installed with the exception of the windows with AC units. Work will start Friday for 3rd floor windows starting in Courtroom A. There is still some trimming work to complete on the inside and outside of the building.

The AC condensers have all been moved out of the attic except the mini-splits. They will start working on Saturdays when they can’t get in rooms or in hallways. Anticipated completion for that project is March 19th but have a 30 day cushion.

The window contractors will come back to do the windows with AC units in them after the HVAC has been completed.

Jail Update

Chairman Sharp advised roofing option decisions will be nailed down soon.

Historic Courthouse Maintenance/Modification/Alteration Standards Policy

There is belief that a copy of this document might be in the archives. Efforts are being made to locate that document.

Other Courthouse Business

Ron has been in contact with Two Guys Tuck Pointing for completion of the steeple repair works. He is anticipating they will be here to complete that work in the next 2 to 3 weeks.

Former ROE office will have new carpet laid this month.

Former Health Department Building

Chairman Sharp asked the committee to think about what they would like to do with this building as future discussions will be needed. If the county does decide to put the building up for sale, a comment was made that it should be sold “as is”. It is believed there was a new roof put on that building in 2016. Chairman Sharp asked members to reach out to him with thoughts.

Remodel Costs Treasurer’s Office

Treasurer reminded the committee that during the FY24 budget process included was transferring a $500,000.00 CD in the General Obligation that was redeemed in January to the Capital Improvement Fund for renovations. The Treasurer’s office and County Clerk’s office have renovation plans for this budget year with the focus on ADA compliance for the counter where customers are served. She noted that she is still obtaining costs and doesn’t have a final cost at this time but would like to move forward with the purchase of office equipment in the amount just under $6,000.00 from Striglos with a recommendation to pay for the expenditure out of the Capital Improvement/Renovation fund. Other office equipment estimates were provided. She was asked to bring back other renovation costs estimates to the committee as she has those.

Motion by Ray Koonce and second by David Buckles to approve the Treasurer’s recommendation for office equipment coming from Capital Improvement/Renovation Fund referring on to Finance for Board recommendation. A roll call vote polled all ayes. Motion carried.

SAFETY GRANT

IPRF the County’s worker’s compensation carrier awarded the County with $5,926.00 in safety grant funding for use during the FY24 fiscal year. The committee was presented with departmental requests for this year’s grant. Safety harness equipment was requested by Maintenance Supervisor Ron Brown and ballistic ERT shields by the Sheriff’s Office. Deputy Chief Jim Baker advised the Chairman that the Sheriff’s budget would pay for any overrun of expenses for his request.

Motion by Thomas Snyder, Jr. and second by David Buckles to recommend to the full Board to approve the purchase of 2 safety harnesses, 2 lanyards and 2 -150’ ropes totaling $1,481.56 to be purchased from Grainger using Safety Grant funding. A roll call vote polled all ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by David Buckles and second by Thomas Snyder, Jr. to recommend to the full Board to approve the purchase of 2 lightweight ballistic ERT shields from the balance of the Safety Grant funding with any remaining cost being paid out of the Sheriff’s budget. A roll call vote polled all ayes. Motion carried.

OTHER MATTERS

Chairman Sharp spoke to the committee about recent discussion he has had with Mike Whitehead, Mayor from Mt. Auburn in reference to concerns about establishing something to be able to reach out to Animal Control for assistance with vicious dog issues. Chairman advised we might need to look into the issues since they are an incorporated area and review this again.

Motion by David Buckles and second by Ray Koonce to adjourn. All members were in favor. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas Snyder, Jr. Chairman

Buildings/Highway/Environmental/Zoning

Welfare Committee

02/12/2024