

MONDAY

NOVEMBER 21, 2005

MONDAY

The Board of DeKalb County Commissioners met in the Commissioners Court in the Court House in regular session, Monday at 8:30A.M. (EST)

**PRESENT**Don KaufmanConnie R. MilesWilliam C. Ort**ABSENT****MATTER OF SHERIFF**

Sheriff Dennis discussed the resolution he has requested to create a new fund for an emergency response team (ERT) as well as a resolution for changes in the fees being charged for sheriff sales. The matters will be discussed with the council, and advertising will be accomplished by the auditor for the change in fees when the resolutions are completed and signed by the appropriate bodies.

**MATTER OF APPOINTMENT**

County health nurse Linda Miller explained that the Board of Health must find a replacement for Ron Hefty who is leaving due to family health issues. Ms. Miller presented the names of three persons who were suggested as possible appointees and would agree to serve, requesting that the commissioners appoint one before the first quarterly meeting on the fourth Monday in January.

Ms. Miller also reported that money collected from the employees who paid a portion for flu shots has been turned in, and that she would like permission to order flu vaccine for 2006 as soon as it becomes available in February. A motion by Don Kaufman to approve ordering the vaccine for 2006 was seconded by Connie Miles and carried.

**MATTER OF AIRPORT TURNING LANE**

Toby Steffen of Butler Fairman Seufert Engineering consultants discussed the project for widening County Road 427 at County Road 60. The environment study is complete and there are no problems, however, the traffic count done by his company will probably not warrant a turning lane. A small study was done by manual count while the company was performing work at the location, and covered only hours when it was believed traffic would be at a peak. Highway supervisor Patton was not available for comment, but it was thought that the county had performed a study with mechanical counting devices at an earlier date. Design plans will continue for a turning lane, which may not be necessary, but could be replaced with a passing blister.

**MATTER OF HEALTH INSURANCE**

Agent Brian Miller explained that there must be a cost differential between payments for the two networks selected for health insurance coverage. Three Rivers Preferred will have a

higher out of pocket cost for out of network services, but provide better discounts, while the coverage with Lutheran Preferred network would remain the same as in prior years. The cost incentive for Three Rivers will mean a lower premium, while Lutheran Preferred premium would be raised slightly. Information will be made available to employees through a web site as well as manuals listing physicians who maintain a membership to the plans. A motion by Don Kaufman to approve the new contribution rates as presented for employee withholding for the two plans for 2006 was seconded by Connie Miles and carried.

Brian also presented the contractual documents to continue the practice for Section 125 calculations of income eligible for tax following the removal of health care premiums.

#### **MATTER OF SUNNY MEADOWS**

Herdsmen Howard Richardson reported that Sunny Meadows farm is currently milking 44 cows. There are 12 dry cows, 27 bred heifers, 17 heifers 5 to 15 months, 8 heifers 1 to 5 months, 7 steers, and 2 herd bulls. The current price for milk is \$16.04 per hundred pounds, with 96,585 pounds shipped this month. The somatic cell count average is 260. Milk sales totaled \$15,925.48 for the month. Howard calculates a profit of \$23,794.30 for 2005.

Howard also presented quotes to repair the hay rake. Commissioner Kaufman recommended repairs at \$1,211.50 versus buying used at \$2,500. Bob Hargarten also has a gravity wagon, which has been used at Sunny Meadows, and remains at the farm. Howard would like to buy the wagon offered at \$900, but Commissioner Kaufman recommended asking the owner for the absolute lowest price he might accept before making a decision.

Administrator Kim Pierson reported a new resident Sharon Ann Yoder will be coming. Another recommendation by Richland Township Trustee Ed Shippy may be a possibility for residency. Kim has investigated the possibility of work release inmates as residents, but insurance coverage could be a problem.

#### **MATTER OF SPECIAL CLAIMS**

A motion by Connie Miles to approve special claims as well as the claim for Dan Fry's cellular phone reimbursement was seconded by Don Kaufman and carried.

#### **MATTER OF TREASURER'S REPORT**

The commissioners reviewed the October Treasurer's report.

#### **MATTER OF COURT HOUSE HISTORY BOOKLETS**

John Martin Smith presented samples and quotes from 5 vendors for 1,000, 2,500, and 5,000 copies of the court house history booklets for distribution to visiting students. The low quote comes from Envision Graphics, although the sample layout presented to the commissioners was done by the News Tribune. Other bidders included JY Design, Engle Printing, and Commercial Graphics.

The consensus was to purchase 5,000 copies, leaving \$1,967.50 in reserve to purchase additional copies, or amended copies at a later date.

#### **MATTER OF SECTION 125**

A motion by Don Kaufman to approve and sign the document for adoption of pre tax payment for health insurance premiums for employees was seconded by Connie Miles and carried.

**MATTER OF COURT HOUSE WINDOWS**

A motion by Don Kaufman to approve the application for payment of the second installment for the court house windows was seconded by Connie Miles and carried.

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**MATTER OF APPOINTMENT**

A motion by Don Kaufman to appoint Tom Hollabaugh to the board of health was seconded by William Ort and carried. Connie Miles abstained from the vote due to a conflict of interest.

**MATTER OF HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING**

Custodian Clint Stephens and Jim Felger of Felger Hart, Inc. discussed a quote for replacement or repairs of heating/air conditioning units for the courthouse. Repairs for most of the units would involve replacement of the motors and drain pans, while replacement units would have the newer ball valves and controls. The smallest units would cost \$450 to repair versus \$950 to replace with a new unit. The repair estimate includes only the motor and drain pan and would not include further repair cost should other problems be found. Clint feels that replacement of the units is the better option as the labor for either repair or replacement would be the same. Clint will inventory the units within the courthouse to determine the number and sizes, which must definitely be replaced as soon as possible. Some units are not in any manner of working order.

**MATTER OF PAYROLL**

A motion by Don Kaufman to approve the payroll for period ending November 17<sup>th</sup> was seconded by Connie Miles and carried.

**MATTER OF SUPERIOR COURT II**

Prosecutor Monte Brown has recently been appointed judge of the new Superior Court to be activated in January of 2006. Monte spoke to the commissioners regarding the pre-trial diversion fund, which is accumulated from fees paid by offenders who then make restitution of monies for such offenses as writing checks with insufficient funds. Monte would like to turn \$300,000 of this fund over to the county general fund for appropriation for other needs. Monte will make this announcement to the council.

Monte also plans to bring his current secretary from his private practice to the county as his secretary in Superior Court II. Monte requested that the 80% salary reduction customary for the 90-day probationary period for new county employees be waived for his secretary. Monte feels that the secretary has worked for him for many years and should not be subject to this reduction in wages.

**MATTER OF TRAVEL**

A motion by Don Kaufman to approve the sheriff's request for travel for Noah Schimpf was seconded by Connie Miles and carried.

**MATTER OF ADJOURNMENT**

As there was no further business to come before the commissioners the meeting was adjourned.

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William C. Ort

Connie R. Miles  
Connie R. Miles

Don Kaufman  
Don Kaufman

ATTEST:

Sharon G. Hayes  
Sharon G. Hayes