

MONDAY

DECEMBER 19, 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)

PRESENTWilliam C. OrtConnie R. MilesDon Kaufman**ABSENT****MATTER OF ASSISTANT BUILDING INSPECTOR**

The commissioners interviewed Lonnie Lanning, candidate for the position of part time building inspector. Commissioner Ort explained that the commissioner appointed position required a 30-hour week with 26 pay periods per year, for a salary of approximately \$21,000 plus mileage.

Commissioner Miles asked Mr. Lanning to relate some of his qualifications and reason for interest in the position.

Mr. Lanning lives in Garrett, and is a married ex-marine with two sons. His basic knowledge for the position comes from the building trades program within his high school and further experience as a police officer for 19 years. Mr. Lanning feels that communication skills gained during the years spent in law enforcement will be an exceptional aid when working with the public and contractors. His knowledge of county locations will also be valuable.

Commissioner Kaufman stated that honesty and consistency with the contractors is a must, while Commissioner Ort explained that dialog with the plan commission is also very important. The importance of working closely with Zoning Administrator Sally Rowe as well as the other county offices pertinent to the building department was also stressed.

It was determined that Mr. Lanning would qualify for the position. When Commissioner Ort asked when he might begin Mr. Lanning stated that he could begin immediately. He will begin on Tuesday.

MATTER OF SUNNY MEADOWS

Herdsmen Howard Richardson reported that Sunny Meadows farm is currently milking 46 cows. There are 10 dry cows, 34 bred heifers, 6 heifers 5 to 15 months, 8 heifers 1 to 5 months, 2 newborn calves, and 6 steers. A cow was sold and 1 calf was born dead. There are 2 herd bulls. The current price for milk is \$16.00 per hundred pounds, with 64,245 pounds shipped this month. The somatic cell count average is 222.

Howard is waiting for the insurance adjuster to determine the cost to repair the tractor damaged last week, but he believes it may be as much as \$2,500 to \$3,000.

Discussion of the repairs led to further discussion of the aging farm equipment which would have to be replaced if the farm would continue to operate, and Commissioner Kaufman had invited Tim Haynes to address these issues. Mr. Haynes farms acreage adjoining Sunny Meadows and has helped Howard with the planting and harvesting at various times. Mr. Haynes expressed concern that repairs to the hay rake, which were discussed at a prior meeting were not necessarily the best choice. Knowing that this piece of equipment had been tipped over and perhaps the entire framework sprung, the purchase of a used hay rake might be warranted.

Mr. Haynes also wished to discuss the issues of maintaining the farm and equipment and the cost to the taxpayers. Most of the equipment is getting old, and the planting and harvesting has been done out of necessity with outside help. There is limited use of the buildings always in need of repair and it will soon be impossible to obtain parts for the milking equipment. Mr. Haynes also stated that the grazing program is working well and has been an aid to reduce the cost of planting and harvesting, however, it is a difficult challenge to find a competent person to run the farm as well as help the milking and chores.

Howard stated that he will inventory the equipment and prepare a report for the commissioners to consider.

Commissioner Kaufman stated that the day is coming when some very difficult decisions must be made for the farm, and he asked Mr. Haynes the current price for rent of acreage. Mr. Haynes replied that he believed rental to be between \$80 and \$100 per acre.

Kim Pierson reported an estimate of \$1,020 from Leon Slaybaugh to repair the barn door, but she will need to transfer money to be able to pay for the repairs from the 2005 budget.

A motion by Connie Miles to accept new resident, Tamikka R. Early was seconded by Don Kaufman and carried.

MATTER OF HIGHWAY

Superintendent Patton stated that he had nothing pertinent to discuss with the commissioners at this meeting. However, Jay Christian, Lynn McDonald and Attorney Dan Brinkerhoff were in attendance to represent the Town of Corunna.

Mr. Christian addressed the issue for the south road, County Road 26 east of Corunna, which intersects with County Road 11. This road very much needs to be widened for vehicles to pass one another, especially once the bridge over the railroad tracks is removed. In an emergency situation a vehicle would travel three to seven miles farther in order to cross the tracks. Attorney Brinkerhoff also spoke to the same issue.

Superintendent Patton agreed that widening the road would be possible and indicated that he will investigate the cost for the project to be accomplished.

MATTER OF APPOINTMENTS

A motion by Don Kaufman to reappoint Sharon Kline to the BZA was seconded by Connie Miles and carried.

A motion by Don Kaufman to appoint James McCanna attorney for the Health Department was seconded by Connie Miles and carried.

MATTER OF PAYROLL

A motion by Don Kaufman to approve payroll for the period ending December 15th was seconded by Connie Miles and carried.

MATTER OF SUPERIOR COURT II

Newly appointed judge for DeKalb County's new Superior Court II Monte Brown, met with the commissioners to discuss arrangements for the January opening of the court. The new phones and line installation have been taken care of by the IS department and the custodian, and the sound and recording system have also been ordered. The new judge explained that it would be much too confusing to allow deputies from the clerk's office to have workstations located

within the court office. He also feels that he will need a part-time person and file cabinets for small claims.

MATTER OF COURTHOUSE WINDOWS

Custodian Clint Stephens and architect Ed Welling spoke to the commissioners regarding the window project. The commissioners agreed that Mr. Welling should perform a thorough inspection of each of the windows. Mr. Welling is aware of the problems and will check to be sure all have been resolved. A representative from Marvin Windows will also perform a similar inspection. However Attorney McCanna would like Grinsfelder Architects to certify that the project is complete and acceptable.

MATTER OF ADJOURNMENT

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

William C. Ort

Connie R. Miles
Connie R. Miles

Don Kaufman
Don Kaufman

ATTEST

Sharon G. Hayes
Sharon G. Hayes

