

MONDAY

April 12, 2004

MONDAY

280

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

William C. Ort
Connie R. Miles
Don Kaufman

ABSENT

MATTER OF SPECIAL CLAIMS

A motion by Connie Miles to approve special claims was seconded by William Ort and carried. Two of the claims were for tax refunds on property owned by Commissioner Kaufman. Therefore he did not vote.

MATTER OR RETIREMENT – SUNNY MEADOWS FARMER

David and Mary Rose Kimmel spoke to the commissioners concerning a home for retirement. David Kimmel has been the tenant farmer at Sunny Meadows Residential Home and Farm for 40 years, but will purchase a home at 310 Covell Street in Garrett. The Kimmels will then move from the farmhouse approximately one year before retiring in June 2005. This will allow the herdsman and his family to move to the farm and be nearer to the cattle. David will continue to drive to the farm to manage the crops for the remainder of his last year of employment.

A motion by Don Kaufman to receive the letter of intent with contingencies based on the review of the tenant farmer and herdsman's contracts with changes as necessary.

MATTER OF TOWN OF ALTONA

Sheriff Dennis reported that the Town of Altona plans to hire a part time marshal. Town board members may request to purchase one of the sheriff's used vehicle. There are two vehicles yet equipped with radios and some lights, which could be beneficial, and be sold for a better price than a regular bidding process.

MATTER OF SUNNY MEADOWS

Commissioner Kaufman spoke to Sunny Meadows Superintendent and Administrator Rick and Janel Snow concerning the death of two heifers. Herdsman Howard Richardson stated that he had been told by tenant farmer David Kimmel that the commissioners had instructed not to feed the heifers the heavier blend of "chop." Mr. Kimmel said this was true. One heifer carrying twins was diagnosed by the veterinarian as having died of starvation. The animal should have had a richer more nutritious blend of food. The commissioners were not aware that this had ever been a practice at any time during their terms of office, and expressed their concern that this should not happen again. The herdsman stated that this had already been corrected.

Commissioner Kaufman also discussed the grazing practices, which the Snows hope to initiate in May, and stated that Councilman Van Wye did not feel the grazing program would work at Sunny Meadows. The commissioners entertained comments from the herdsman and

281

tenant farmer, who stated that Mr. VanWye had told them the program should work for a small herd.

The pasture grasses would be allowed to grow as the animals are moved from location to location on a daily basis. The commissioners are concerned that this method will not improve the herd and milk production or lower farm costs as the Snows seem to think. The Snows stated that they would bale a richer blend of hay, and could rent the particular bailing equipment and wrapping from another farmer in the area. The cash crops of corn and soybeans would remain the same, with some oats and molasses necessary for the herd. Very little grain or "chop" is fed during the summer months. Milk production should become better as the cost for feed decreases. Some pasture seeding is already complete. Water lines must be provided in each of the areas, and the herdsman is concerned that the fencing must be ready by the beginning of May. All of the Sunny Meadows employees are committed to the grazing method and determined to try it for at least two years.

The commissioners will consider drafting a letter to the council to approve the grazing program.

Janel Snow stated that a new ruling for county home residents makes it very difficult to obtain new residents statewide.

MATTER OF HAVA

Clerk Jackie Rowan explained that deputy Missy Heffelfinger will be the point person for the evaluation of the polling places and to pick up the kits for the polls. Joyce Hevel of RISE and Count Us In will also be a team member for approval of the polling places with regard to handicap accessibility. The local board will then decide what will be done to make changes in the polling places for compliance. All DeKalb County precincts will be voting in the spring primary. All of the school voting areas have been surveyed, and several are not acceptable.

MATTER OF ROAD PROJECT

Eli Samaan of GAI Consultants presented two separate proposals for County Road 11A east and west of Interstate 69. It was Eli's hope that the cost breakdown would help the commissioners decide to request grant monies for the project.

MATTER OF PAYROLL

A motion by Don Kaufman to approve the payroll claims for the period ending April 8th was seconded by Connie Miles and carried.

MATTER OF MEDICAL INSURANCE

A motion was made by Connie Miles for the commissioners to sign the letter instructing BeniComp, third party administrators of the employees' health insurance, to pay claims for medical services incurred by Brian Springer of the sheriff's department in May of 2000. Deputy Springer filed the claim for payment by workers' compensation, but the claim was denied. An appeal was also denied. The claim shall be paid at the rate and according to the amount of the deductible in effect at that time. The motion was seconded by Don Kaufman and carried.

MATTER OF REQUEST

A motion by Connie Miles to authorize JoAnn and Dennis Walker of 2058 County Road 43 to manage the traffic on County Road 16 from County Road 427 to their place of business for 6 to 8 hours until the application of dust control is set, providing the application is approved by the highway superintendent to be environmentally safe and with the understanding that the road

will be maintained in the usual manner by the highway department following the application was
seconded Don Kaufman and carried.

282

MATTER OF ADJOURNMENT

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

William C. Ort

William C. Ort

Connie R. Miles

Connie R. Miles

Don Kaufman

Don Kaufman

ATTEST:

Sharon G. Hayes

Sharon G. Hayes