

**Commissioners Meeting
February 15, 2022**

Present: Jim Seiler, Tom Brown, Heather Gries, Auditor Melissa Bunner, Attorney Jeff Lindsey

Meeting was called to order by President Seiler at 3:00 P.M.

Minutes

Gries made a motion to approve the minutes for February 1, 2022. Brown seconded the motion. Motion approved.

Claims

Brown made a motion to approve claim numbers 4831, 4844, 4845, 4848, 4850, 4851, 4852, 4853, 4854, 4855, and 4856. Gries seconded the motion. Motion approved.

Health Department / Kim Hay

County is still in the "Red". Cases are down. There are approximately 50 positive cases. Starting this week, Honey Creek Farm will have free testing Monday through Thursday from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. Vaccine clinics will continue Wednesdays.

VSO / Butch Meredith

For week of January 24, 2021, total Veterans assisted this week was 72 and the phone calls totaled 118. For week of January 31, 2022, total Veterans assisted this week was 46 and the phone calls totaled 78.

The second week was a short week due to weather. The Courthouse was closed Thursday and Friday.

Hwy Report

Highway Opening Bid / Dale Kenney

The bids are for the Bituminous Surfacing of CR2000N from CR700E to CR800E and CR2175N from CR700E to Dubois County Line.

CR2000N from CR700E to CR800E

E & B Paving: \$141,150.00

C & R Construction: \$153,990.00

J.H. Rudolph: \$148,939.00

Calcar Paving: \$159,690.00

CR2175N from CR700E to Dubois County Line

E & B Paving: \$222,260.00

C & R Construction: \$230,000.00

J.H. Rudolph: \$230,686.20

Calcar Paving: \$243,775.90

Total Bids:

E & B Paving: \$363,410.00

C & R Construction: \$383,990.00

J.H. Rudolph: \$379,625.20

Calcar Paving: \$403,465.90

Brown motioned to take the bids under advisement. Gries seconded the motion. Motion approved.

Kenney made the recommendation to award the bid to E & B Construction for CR2000N from CR700E to CR800E for \$141,150.00.

Brown motioned to approve this recommendation. Gries seconded the motion. Motion approved.

Kenny made the recommendation to award the bid to E & B Construction for CR2175N from CR700E to Dubois County Line for \$222,260.00.

Gries motioned to approve this recommendation. Brown seconded the motion. Motion approved.

Assessor / Janie McGinnis

McGinnis came to discuss the new tax tables structures. The rate for January 1, 2021 was \$1,290.00 per acre. The rate for January 1, 2022 is \$1,500.00 per acre which is an increase of 16.3% in AG land assessments. Spencer County has approximately 260,000 acres. There are 17,000 plus acres in these land types and registered with DNR. Approximately 6.5% of all acreage will be assessed at \$14.63 per acre. Additionally, there is a 40% increase in crude, 63% increase in gas, and 38% increase in equipment for 2022.

EMA / Stephanie Melton

Melton asked if Law Enforcement could use the Courthouse for training on Monday, February 21, 2022. The Courthouse will be closed for President's Day.

Brown motioned to approve this request. Gries seconded the motion. Motion approved.

Coroner / Layla Thayer

Thayer discussed an opportunity to get a grant for a vehicle. To apply for the grant, she needs to provide an answer to two (2) questions. One, are the Commissioners and County Council on board with the grant submission. Two, will the Commissioners and County Council help maintain the vehicle in the long run. The grant amount is \$32,566.67. She is looking at a Ford F-150 4X4.

Gries motioned to approve this request contingent upon the County Council approving the request. Selier seconded the motion. Gries and Selier motioned in favor and Brown opposed. Motion approved.

Legal Report

Lindsey presented a letter of support for READJ funding for Back 9 Partners Housing Development. This letter was approved by the Commissioners at the meeting on February 1, 2022.

Lindsey discussed the mowing bid which was discussed at the meeting on February 1, 2022. The discussion was in regard to the trimming of trees and sidewalk areas and how often it needs to be done.

Brown motioned to approve the bid with the new language. Gries seconded the motion. Motion approved.

Lindsey followed up on the discussion from the last meeting regarding the property in Lamar. He provided three (3) pages of documentation. The first page shows a survey provided by the property owner. The second page shows the GIS picture of the property. According to this picture, the platted street does not extend past the property lines. The third page shows the road stopped North of the property. The County does maintain to north line of both properties. The question is which map is correct. The first page or the second page. Lindsey recommends the property owner seek legal counsel. Since Gries was approached by the property owner, she will make this recommendation on how to move forward.

Lindsey presented a draft of Ordinance 2022-01. This is an Ordinance amending Ordinance 2021-08. Basically, this ordinance changes the planned use of the money received by the County. "The Spencer County Council passed a motion to change the plan for use of the ARP funds to designate 100% of the \$3,932,599 awarded to Spencer County as the Standard Allowance of Revenue Loss and that said money may be used for general government services subject to restrictions of the fund rule."

Brown motioned to adopt this new ordinance. Gries seconded the motion. Motion approved. This ordinance is adopted at first reading by unanimous vote.

Old Business

No Report.

New Business

Rob Schulte came to discuss a 50-unit housing project in REO. He is requesting the County help with the roads needed for this project. This project is new and once he gets the necessary requirements, he will return.

Bill Young came to request the appointment of Dr. Joshua Poos as the Spencer County Health Officer.
Brown motioned to table until the next meeting. Gries seconded the motion. Motion approved.

There was discussion about the ARPA funding and who has the final say in the approved projects. The understanding is the Commissioners have a say on the projects and can recommend projects, but the County Council has the final say to allow the funding. One project discussed at the last County Council meeting was the 4H Building project (Youth and Community Center Pavilion).

Gries made a motion to approve the Youth and Community Center Pavilion. Selier seconded the motion. Motion approved.

Scott Singleton came to the meeting to Congratulate the Commissioners, County Council, Building Inspector and Solid Waste for the work done at the property located at the blue bridge.

Brown motioned to adjourn the meeting. Gries seconded the motion. Motion approved. The meeting was adjourned at 4:36 P.M.

President

Attest:


Auditor, Melissa L. Bunner


