

Franklin County Council Meeting

Memorandum and Minutes

February 26, 2013

Commissioners/Council Meeting Room 203

Present: Joe Sizemore, Daryl Kramer, Dean McQueen, Hollie Maxie, Becky Oglesby, Aaron Leffingwell. Jeff Koch was absent.

Auditor: Stephen Brack

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Joe Sizemore and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes – A motion was made by Becky Oglesby and 2nd by Daryl Kramer to approve the minutes of Jan. 29, 2013 and special meeting of February 6, 2013.

Veterans Service Officers – Scott McDonough was present on behalf of the County Commissioners and speaking for Veterans Service Office Charles Thomas stating his position on making the Veterans Service Officer a full time position at 32.5 hours per week. He asked that \$19,660 to make the pay \$35,000 annually. Several people in the audience spoke in favor of the Veterans Officer being a full-time position: items discussed was the fact it is much easier being able to file a claim locally as opposed to driving to Indianapolis and waiting for days for a claim to be paid, being able to get more assistance to veterans, the Veterans Service Officer does serve other veterans outside of the county as he feels this is his duty- maybe the other counties should be billed for his services, the Veterans Service Officer does a lot of work for the veterans by staying past the office hours, a person just doesn't walk in and leave, he goes over and above to help, he visits older veterans at the home if needed and if it were not for our veterans we would not be here.

Carroll Lanning from the audience spoke up and said he didn't understand why an appointed person would make more money than the elected officials.

Council Members statements:

Becky Oglesby spoke by saying that she admires all Veterans and thanks them for their services; however this item would be addressed in the next budget hearing in August as we already have a budget in place for now.

Dean McQueen says that we owe a great deal to our veterans for our freedom and he deserves the benefit to take care of the veteran's needs. Dean also feels the current Veterans officer is over loaded.

Aaron Leffingwell stated the \$35,000.00 is more than the elected officials receive and this is not a manageable number. Three years ago the council was asked for a salary of \$24,000.00.

Hollie Maxie stated that other county employees do not get to negotiate their pay. motion was made by Becky Oglesby to discuss this at Budget Time, as we need to follow the budget we have in place. Aaron Leffingwell seconded the motion. The motion died due to tie – 3 yes – Joe Sizemore, Daryl Kramer and Dean McQueen and 3 no – Hollie Maxie, Becky Oglesby and Aaron Leffingwell.

Council member Daryl Kramer then made a motion to make the Veterans Service Officer a full-time position at \$32,500.00, 32.5 hours per week. Mr. McDonough suggested that the money could come from the Extension Office if the position was left unfilled. Mr. Kramer said he would like to keep the 2 issues separate. The motion was 2nd by Dean McQueen. The motion was denied – 2 yes: Daryl Kramer, Dean McQueen and 3 No – Hollie Maxie, Aaron Leffingwell and Becky Oglesby.

Veterans Service Officer – Charles Thomas – made a statement at the close of the discussion. He expressed his Thanks and that this would probably be the last time he would be here. He thanked the Veterans for coming and he closed his remarks by saying "Tonight we hit rock bottom."

Extension Board – Angie Riffle and Joan Koch, President of the Extension Board presented 2 requests: (1) stated that an employee in her office had left and the employee was paid from the Salary line in the budget. She ask the Council to put the money \$6,847.75 back to her budget from the Council's salary adjustment line which would then allow her the funds to hire another person in the office; otherwise it would be the end of April before she would be able to hire someone for the position. A motion was made by Aaron Leffingwell to leave the payment to the former employee out of the budget as directed and 2nd by Daryl Kramer. Hollie Maxie voted No and Aaron Leffingwell, Becky Oglesby, Dean McQueen and Daryl Kramer were in favor. Motion carried. (2) Request was to be allowed to fill the secretarial position on April 29 when the money - \$6,847.75 was paid back even though this money was budgeted for 2013. She noted that 2 secretarial positions are essential in the office now that they have 3 full-time Educators.

Audience comments: Several in the audience spoke of behalf of the need in the Extension Office for the position to be filled. Angie Kroll said the Oxford Pike Club has approximately 50 members and these are kids who come back to this county to make it better. Beth Caudill, 4-H leader and Extension Homemaker said the 3 Educators can't do their job without the support of the office staff. Mrs. Koch noted to Council that there would certainly be a decrease in service offered by the office. Mrs. Riffle also noted that they were not asking for additional funds, they were merely asking for appropriated money. Jeff Batchler was in support of the additional staffing. He noted that he was aware of another 4-H program that only lasted 5 years without the support. He was aggravated that the council would even think about this. Ron Galyen said we need more professional educators for the price of a secretary. Council should want to keep this position. Heidi Reuss commented: "Has anyone been in the office? It is easy to judge because you are not there! She stated that council needed to look at the whole picture. Maybe you should job shadow them for a day.

Council remarks continued: Mr. Kramer said that he was concerned about living on a budget. He then stated that we can't keep throwing \$20,000 or \$30,000 each year. Mrs. Oglesby stated that she had heard that Fayette County had to lay off employees implying that Franklin County may be in the same situation some time. We have to be careful about the budget.

Audience comment: Linda Vaughan said that the commissioners had been discussing making a part-time secretarial position into a full-time Human Resource position. She asked if the same policy would apply

A motion was made to not fund the Extension Office position. Aaron Leffingwell, Daryl Kramer and Becky Oglesby voted in favor and Hollie Maxie and Dean McQueen voted against. Motion carried.

Additional Appropriations: A motion to accept was made by Hollie Maxie 2nd by Daryl Kramer, motion carried.

Transfers – A motion to accept was made by Daryl Kramer 2nd by Aaron Leffingwell. Motion carried.

Assessor's Office – Sharon Halcomb asked that Rebecca Sacksteder and Bessie Edwards be reappointed to the Property Tax Board of Appeals. Daryl Kramer made a motion for the reappointment and 2nd by Dean McQueen. Motion carried. It should be noted that there are 5 members on this board which also include: Peggy Glascock, Shirley Seufert and Claudine Rader.

A motion was made by Hollie Maxie to adjourn – 2nd by Becky Oglesby. Motion carried.

Others Present: Wayne Monroe, Quentin Lanning, Mary Ellen Pierce, Tiffany Marshall, Haroline Ison, Tom Wilson, Peggy Glascock, Jim Glascock, Todd Thalheimer, Carroll Lanning, Linda Vaughan, James Sprague, Scott McDonough, Sheldon Strothman, Bill Pierce, Heidi Reuss, Jeff Batchler, Ruth Estridge, Beth Caudill, Karla Bauman, Veronica Voelker, Tom Linkel, Harry Rosenberger, Kelvin Beckman, Angie Kroll, Dan Dorrel, Neysa Raible, Dick Williams, Sharon Halcomb, Charles Thomas, Diane Thomas, Tom Vohland, Mike Kohlsdorf, Joann Koch, Linda Aldridge, Angie Riffle, Holly Murray, Kim Schwab, Anna Morrow, Ted Reuss, Brian Bauman, Aleen Thackery, Ron Galyen, Diana Galyen, Carey Knecht, Joe Minniti and Gary Dorrel.

The names listed are spelled as correctly as possible due to the legibility of the sign in sheet.

AYE

Jeff Koch

Joe Sizemore

Dean McQueen

Dean McQueen

Daryl Kramer

Daryl Kramer

Hollie Maxie

Hollie Maxie

Becky Oglesby

Becky Oglesby

A. M. Leffingwell

Aaron Leffingwell

NAY

Jeff Koch

Joe Sizemore

Dean McQueen

Daryl Kramer

Hollie Maxie

Becky Oglesby

Aaron Leffingwell

ATTEST:

Stephna Bank, Auditor
Feb. 26. 2015