

FRANKLIN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING
APRIL 11, 2017 – 10:00 A.M.
COMMISSIONERS/COUNCIL MEETING ROOM, #203

The Franklin County Commissioners met in regular meeting on April 11, 2017, at 10:00 a.m. in the Commissioners/Council Meeting Room. Those present were Tom Wilson, Tom Linkel, Eric Roberts, Carol Westerman and Karla Bauman, Auditor.

The meeting was called to order and pledge of allegiance led by Tom Wilson.

Eric Roberts – Request by Betty Lecher for the Commissioners to use the lapel microphones.

Connie Bischoff – Franklin County Recorder – Connie Bischoff read a prepared statement addressing some concerns she had with false statements and rumors that have been said about her by the former Franklin County Recorder and the former Franklin County Auditor. She also addressed the condition she found the Recorder's office when she arrived on the first day. All equipment, including the phones, were unplugged and laying in the middle of the floor. It took over eight days and three IT personnel to get her office up and running again. Once the computers were back in running it was noted that the previous Recorder emails were all deleted and all document folders were emptied as well.

Approve Minutes – April 4, 2017: Eric Roberts moved to approve the minutes from April 4, 2017, seconded by Tom Wilson. Tom Linkel abstained. Motion carried.

Approve Claims: Tom Linkel moved to approve claims, seconded by Eric Roberts, all in favor.

Approve Payroll: Motion to approve payroll by Tom Linkel, seconded by Eric Roberts, all in favor. Eric Roberts questioned the pay for the third probation officer on the Judge's payroll and whether or not the appropriation was done and if a line was set up in the system. A transfer was approved at the February County Council meeting moving the secretary's remaining balance and the extra help appropriation to the third probation officer line. The Salary Ordinance was also approved and amended to reflect this change. At the March County Council meeting, council denied the additional appropriation requests that were filed by the Court on behalf of the Probation office to "clean up" the amounts that were allegedly appropriated during the 2016 budget hearings but not filed with the State.

Treasurer Veterans Report – March: Tom Linkel moved to acknowledge receipt of the March report from the Treasurer and Veteran's Officer, seconded by Eric Roberts, all in favor. It was also noted that the issue of the Treasurer's office being out of balance with the Auditor's office that was raised in Oct/Nov 2016, has now been fixed. The issue causing the problem was an incorrect adjustment that need correcting in the Auditor's office.

Tom Wilson – Statement: Tom Wilson read a prepared statement in regards to the release of the recent audit and that certain members of the public have made allegations of criminal activity by members of the Board of Commissioners, relating to the Commissioner’s Budget. It has also come to the Board of Commissioner’s attention that a prosecutor in an adjoining county was contacted and asked to pursue charges against certain members of this board. Each member of this board emphatically denies any criminal activity. Tom Wilson moved to seek legal counsel to advise them of their rights against defamatory statements made by certain members of the public. Tom Linkel agreed that he was tired of the lies and seconded the motion. Eric Roberts abstained because the public has a right to free speech. Motion carried. Betty Lecher read a comment by Lee Hamilton about transparency and accountability and the right to question elected officials.

Highway Secretary Presentation: A short presentation about the forms, reports and computer programming that was recently utilized at the Highway Department to track all expenditures from labor to supplies and materials and fuel was given to the public. This will help with tracking of the costs on the various projects the Highway works on. All of these reports have been available at the Highway Department but were not being used. There was also a discussion about getting a new phone system that would transfer calls between the Highway Department and the Commissioner’s Secretary. The Commissioner’s also discussed hiring part-time help to be trained to fill in on vacation days, etc. Eric Roberts would rather spend the money on new phones instead of hiring a part-time person to help. The part-time person would definitely need to know how to do payroll. Somebody does need to know that position in the event of an unplanned leave of absence. They will put in a transfer to cover this position.

Cincinnati Life Insurance: Tom Linkel would like to move forward with getting this company here for the employees. Eric Roberts is interested in scheduling a few days a year for these voluntary benefit providers to come to the County and give their pitch to the employees. All employees would be required to come to one location during the working day. Tom Linkel motioned to allow Cincinnati Life Insurance come in and be a part of our employee program so they can be effective immediately, seconded by Eric Roberts, all in favor.

Ted Cooley – FC Engineer – Updates: Award of Projects – Bridge Overlay Projects in Franklin County – Motion to award the Seven (7) Bridge Overlay Projects to Enneking Pressure Cleaning, Inc. in the sum of \$208,160.00, two coats, leave the bond in, seconded by Eric Roberts, all in favor. Project will start in May or June.

Discussion on Sixth Street Bridge project. Also, bridge inspections are done every five years. We have two bridges, #55 and #144. Bridge #55 needs to be done this year and bridge #144 next year. The county can save some money if both inspections are done this year. The scope of work on both bridges will be basically the same. Mr. Cooley will get back with the Commissioners on the cost savings.

Adjourn: Motion to adjourn by Tom Wilson, seconded by Tom Linkel, all in favor.

Others Present: Mark Simmermeyer, Mildred Simmermeyer, Betty Lecher, Sara Duffy, Jacque Schultz, Connie Bischoff, John Estridge, Dale Maxie, Tim George, James Sprague, Ted Cooley

Minutes from April 11, 2017 accepted.

AYE



Tom Wilson

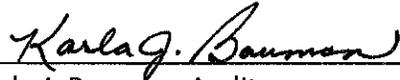


Tom Linkel



Eric Roberts

Attested By:



Karla J. Bauman, Auditor

NAY

Tom Wilson

Tom Linkel

Eric Roberts