

COMMISSIONER PROCEEDINGS

February 18, 2014

- Call to Order: The regular meeting of the Lincoln County Board of Commissioners was held in the commission meeting room of the courthouse Tuesday, February 18, 2014. Chairman Terry Finch called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. with Vice-Chairman Gerald Huehl and Member Al Joe Wallace present. County Clerk Dawn Harlow was in attendance.
- Visitors: Others present for portions of the meeting: Barbara Rathbun, Travis Schwerdtfager, Tim Meier, Mike Weigel, Dustin Florence, Debora Zachgo, Clay Haring, Truette McQueen, Shawn Esterl, Kevin Urban and Leigh Ann Montoy.
- Economic Development: Barbara Rathbun, Economic Development with City of Lincoln Mayor Travis Schwerdtfager, provided additional information and requirements that would have to be completed for a potential business development utilizing a portion of the county's land currently being offered free for development
- Law Enforcement: Sheriff Mike Weigel with Undersheriff Dustin Florence provided department activity statistics for 2013. An executive session was requested. Al Joe Wallace moved to recess into executive session for ten minutes from 10:50 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. for the purpose of discussing personnel matters of non-elected personnel with Sheriff Weigel, Undersheriff Florence, Human Resource Officer Debora Zachgo and County Clerk Harlow present, seconded by Gerald Huehl. Motion carried.
- Executive Session:
- Reconvene: The chairman reconvened the meeting to regular session at 11:00 a.m.
- Law Enforcement: Sheriff Weigel reported on law enforcement activities and equipment.
- Constitutional Tax Abatement: Tim Meier inquired about the status of changing the County's Constitutional Tax Abatement policy to include language that adds the purchase of existing buildings to qualify for tax abatement. Truette McQueen, Lincoln County Reappraisal Consultant posed scenarios that could occur, if the language is changed, that would allow existing businesses to qualify for an abatement lowering the overall county tax base. The group discussed whether there were other alternatives to offering an incentive to a potential business without changing the current policy. McQueen related that other communities offer different types of incentives, other than tax relief, such as reductions in utility bills, snow removal and drive maintenance. The board made no decision this date, but indicated that careful consideration will need to be made before they will change the current policy.
- Highway Department: Road Supervisor Larry Meitler with Assistant Road Supervisor Michel O'Hare reported on highway department projects and equipment. The group discussed the pro's and con's of the motor graders bids received at the February 10 meeting, noting that personnel had viewed and operated the equipment bid and offered preferences. The board requested that banks be contacted to secure financing as a lease purchase, before a final decision is made.

Recess: The chairman recessed the meeting for lunch at 12:20 p.m.

Reconvene: The chairman reconvened the meeting to regular session at 1:00 p.m.

Sanitary Code: Shawn Esterl, Kevin Urban & Leigh Ann Montoy, Saline County Health Department provided the 4th quarter and 2013 year-end summary reports for the Local Environmental Protection Program (LEPP). Montoy reviewed the costs directly related to work performed in Lincoln County and income and fees received to offset the costs. The group related that the County's Sanitary Code has never been updated and offered items that are being changed in other counties, such as requiring inspections on all real estate transactions and adding that the Saline County Health Department handle all violations and notices of violations. The group also discussed current fees charged.

Recreation Commission: Debora Zachgo, Lincoln Recreation Department, requested approval to utilize the courthouse lawn for the annual Easter egg hunt on April 12. The board approved the request. Zachgo related that there are surplus file cabinets in storage and inquired if the County would donate one to the Recreation Department. The board approved donating a file cabinet to the Recreation Department.

Human Resources: Human Resource Officer Debora Zachgo presented applications received to date for the emergency manager position for the board to review.

Tax Abatement: Al Joe Wallace moved to allow tax abatement 2013-25, in the amount of \$61.24, seconded by Gerald Huehl. Motion carried.

Proclamation: Al Joe Wallace moved to proclaim April 2014 as Child Abuse Prevention Month, seconded by Gerald Huehl. Motion carried.

Cereal Malt Beverage Licenses Approved: Gerald Huehl moved to approve issuance of Cereal Malt Beverage Licenses 2014-01 & 2014-02, to Knotheads at Wilson Lake LLC, expiring December 31, 2014, seconded by Al Joe Wallace. Motion carried.

Indigent Burial Expense Approved: The board reviewed a letter from Hall Funeral Home requesting financial assistance for an indigent burial. The board approved issuance of indigent burial fees.

Minutes Approved: Al Joe Wallace moved to approve and adopt the minutes of the February 10, 2014 regular meeting as presented, seconded by Gerald Huehl. Motion carried.

Adjourn: With no further business to come before the board the chairman adjourned the meeting at 3:25 p.m. until 10:00 a.m. Monday, February 24, 2014 in the commission meeting room of the courthouse.