

UNION COUNTY COMMISSIONERS – OCTOBER 16, 2017

PRESENT: Paul Wiwi, David Woeste, Alan Alcorn, Pam Tharp, John Estridge, Jim Crouch, David Taylor, Richard Blank, Jeff Adams, Dale Dishmond, Alvin Day, James Williams, and Gene Sanford.

Wiwi called the meeting to order and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. Woeste moved to approve the minutes of the October 2nd meeting. Alcorn seconded the motion and it carried 3-0.

HIGHWAY DEPT: The Commissioners opened the 3 bids that were received for paving to be done on the roads covered by the Community Crossings grant. Bids were received from Milestone for \$874,777.75, O'Mara for \$848,597.50, and Rohe for \$948,717.00. After some discussion, Woeste moved to accept the O'Mara bid of \$848,597.50. Alcorn seconded the motion and it carried 3-0.

Highway Supervisor Jeff Bowers reported the department is berming and patching roads now. He also stated that the Brownsville Road Bridge #22 project came in \$200,000 under INDOT estimate. He also said is still awaiting bids on the new salt shed and striping of Nine Mile Road.

SHERIFF: Sheriff Dale Dishmond reviewed a letter from the State Jail Inspector listing deficiencies for the Union County Jail. He stated the standards are getting tougher and our jail is not passing. The structure itself is the biggest problem as it is old and does not meet the current standards. Dishmond stated the state is considering raising the out of county housing fee from \$35 to \$55. Blank stated funding is the biggest problem to fix the jail and Dishmond stated he felt the county needed to at least begin discussions.

After some discussion, the Commissioners decided to form a committee to review the jail situation. Wiwi stated he would represent the Commissioners and asked the Sheriff, Auditor, and one or two Council members to join the committee.

The Sheriff stated there are currently 15 in the local jail with one housed out of county.

HEALTH DEPT: Alvin Day asked permission to have a Haunted House at the Health Department on Halloween to allow people to visit the site. After some discussion, Alcorn moved to allow the Haunted House activity. Woeste seconded the motion and it carried 3-0. Day also announced there would be a Health Board quarterly meeting on October 19th at 7:00 PM.

INNKEEPER'S TAX: Discussion of the Innkeeper's tax was held with projected income and allowable uses of the fund discussed. It was noted that County Council had voted to support the tax. After more discussion, Woeste moved to accept the tax with a 5% rate to be effective January 1, 2018. Alcorn seconded the motion and it carried 3-0.

MEDICARE INSURANCE STIPEND: The possibility of giving county Medicare eligible employees a stipend to supplement their Medicare rather than carry them on the county insurance program was discussed with County Attorney Jim Williams. Williams felt that this was possible but could not be mandated for employees. He felt the county could offer this option but the employee could remain on the county insurance if he/she so desired. Blank stated that Council had discussed a stipend of \$400 per month to be effective January 1, 2018, which would give the employees the opportunity to enroll during Medicare's open enrollment period. Commissioners asked that meetings be held with eligible employees and Medicare supplement vendors to answer any employee questions.

MISC: An executive session to discuss possible litigation was held after the meeting with County Attorney Jim Williams.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Attest _____, Auditor