

JEFF DAVIS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

REGULAR MEETING

JULY 09, 2019

MINUTES

Present: Chairman Ricky Crosby, Commissioners James Benjamin, Hank Hobbs and Vann Wooten, Attorney Carla Powell, Administrator Keith Carter and Clerk Sherri Lytle.

Chairman Ricky Crosby called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and Commissioner James Benjamin gave the invocation. Chairman Crosby led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Tax Assessor Board Chairman David DeSousa stated that the Tax Digest is complete and has been exported to the Tax Commissioner's Office. In addition, he said "I know she has an appointment with the Department of Revenue prior to the first of September which is the due date".

The second item from Mr. DeSousa was suggestions regarding insurance.

Rhonda Walsh stated she was upset on the bidding and voting process related to the air conditioning system in the courthouse. She stated "I did an open records request on June 19th to get a copy of any quotes or contracts concerning those bids. When I come here I wasn't given any. When I get here tonight, I see there is three quotes dated back to March". She told the Board they had policy and procedures, one being anything over \$10,000 must be voted on. She said "I appreciate the Board for voting on it tonight, after the fact, but their spending approximately \$150,000 that the public needs to know about".

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR JUNE 11TH

Motion: To approve the minutes for June 11th.

Proposed: Commissioner James Benjamin

Second: Commissioner Vann Wooten

Motion Carried

APPROVAL TO PAY MONTHLY BILLS

Motion: To pay monthly bills.

Proposed: Commissioner Hank Hobbs

Second: Commissioner Vann Wooten

Motion Carried

ANDREA TAYLOR – DISCUSS/APPROVE M.O.U. HAZLEHURST WOOD PELLETS

J.D.A. Director Andrea Taylor stated that Hazlehurst Wood Pellets employs approximately 75 employees. To keep this plant open the Joint Development Authority is recommending a tax abatement because they're about to spend about 45 million dollars to redo this plant. For five years on this new investment recommending 100 % tax abatement and the next five years graduated to 20, 40 60 and 80%.

Commissioner Hank Hobbs said this is basically the same schedule as last time. If we vote to approve that, then we'll have the M.O.U. to see that it meets our criteria. This is to approve to move forward.

Motion: To approve the tax abatement for Hazlehurst Wood Pellets as presented and move forward with the M.O.U.

Proposed: Commissioner Hank Hobbs

Second: Commissioner Vann Wooten

Motion Carried

APPROVE/DENY BEER & WINE LICENSES AT "THAT LITTLE STORE" FOR KALPESHKUMAR T. PATEL

Motion: To approve Beer & Wine Licenses at "That Little Store" for Kalpeshkumar T. Patel.

Proposed: Commissioner Hank Hobbs

Second: Commissioner James Benjamin

Motion Carried

APPOINT LIBRARY BOARD MEMBER

Motion: To appoint Kresha Aycock to the Jeff Davis County Library Board.

Proposed: Commissioner Vann Wooten

Second: Commissioner Hank Hobbs

Motion Carried

ATTORNEY CARLA POWELL – DISCUSS/APPROVE PAUPER BURIAL POLICY AND PROCEDURES

Attorney Carla Powell explained that recently we had an unclaimed body that turned out to be a pauper. The county is responsible for the burial of those. However, when she went back and pulled the Policy and Procedures for pauper burial and realized the commissioners in 2012 voted to cap the cost of \$250 for this. In her opinion, the amount needs to be raised a little to \$500 because these people are either being cremated or buried in the Cemetery for paupers.

Motion: To amend the Pauper Burial Policy and Procedures to read "The total cost of any pauper burial conducted by Jeff Davis County shall not exceed \$500.00".

Proposed: Commissioner Hank Hobbs

Second: Commissioner Vann Wooten

Motion Carried

APPROVE MOCK MECHANICAL SERVICES QUOTE TO REPAIR COOLING TOWER

Motion: To approve Mock Mechanical Services quote to repair cooling tower.

Proposed: Commissioner Vann Wooten

Second: Commissioner James Benjamin

Motion Carried

NEW/OLD BUSINESS

Commissioner Hank Hobbs informed the Board that on Ira Graham Road we're in the process of getting quotes to repair the asphalt that keeps washing out.

Commissioner Hobbs also wanted to compliment the road crew that was trimming bushes. The new employee that was just hired was very professional with it and was going slow and being safe with it.

ADJOURN 6:14 P.M.

Sherri Lytle

Sherri Lytle, Clerk

Ricky Crosby

Ricky Crosby, Chairman