

March 24, 2009

The Juniata County Commissioners met on the above date with Commissioners Jeff Zimmerman, Dale Shelley and Teresa O'Neal present. Also attending were Harold Benfer, representing Crabtree Rohrbaugh, member of the public Steve Zeiders, Times Reporter Paulette Forry, Juniata Sentinel reporter Maria Yohn and Lewistown Sentinel Reporter Micaiah Bilger.

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Commissioner Zimmerman. A moment of silence was observed followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. The March 17 minutes were amended to read "...cost would be approximately \$3 million to historically restore and totally renovate the facility. To bring the Courthouse up to code .....". On motion of O'Neal/Shelley and unanimously carried, the Minutes were approved as amended.

Zeiders questioned the commissioners as to why there was a need to proceed so quickly with the Courthouse renovations. He expressed concern that major renovations would mean a tax increase for people who are losing their jobs during this recession. Zimmerman stated that the plan at this time is to proceed with the urgently needed repairs. The commissioners stated they are researching grants to help defray the cost. In response to a question by Shelley regarding timeline, Benfer stated the plan is to begin the bid advertising as soon as possible and award bids in June with work beginning as early as July on the outside repairs including a new roof, painting and the clock tower.

O'Neal stated her concerns that even though the commissioners were not required to bid for professional services and expertise, she felt that the Board was not proceeding responsibly by requesting bids from other firms for comparison quotes. Zimmerman and Shelley noted Crabtree has been the architects on previous Courthouse renovations and knows the facility. O'Neal also stated she feels the Board is not addressing space requirements for other offices.

In reviewing the document, the Solicitor questioned a portion of page 3 of the contract that stated "The Owner shall reimburse the Architect for expenses incurred in the interest of the Project, plus twenty percent (20%)." Benfer stated the sentence was included should Crabtree be required to hire an outside consultant. That consultant's fee plus 20% would be reimbursable by the County. Benfer contended that he does not foresee that need occurring.

On motion of Shelley/Zimmerman, the Scope of Services contract was approved in the amount of \$84,500 which represents 7% of the total cost of the project. On a roll call vote, Zimmerman and Shelley voted for and O'Neal voted against the motion.

The Commissioners took the following actions:

- On motion of O'Neal/Shelley and unanimously carried, ratified CDBG checks –  
#351 Darwin Fry \$ 40.00  
#352 Twin Borough's Sanitary 760.00
- On motion of O'Neal/Shelley and unanimously carried, approved Purchase of Service Agreement with Northwestern Human Services – NHS Youth Services, Inc., submitted by Children and youth.
- On motion of O'Neal/Shelley and unanimously carried, approved Helicopter Applications, Inc. form for gypsy moth spraying.
- On motion of O'Neal/Shelley and unanimously carried, approved an acknowledgement to Kimberly McKee of her probationary appointment submitted by Children and Youth.
- On motion of O'Neal/Shelley and unanimously carried approved a Report of Kimberly McKee's appointment as County Caseworker 1 to the State Civil Service commission, submitted by Children and Youth.
- On motion of Zimmerman/Shelley, approved the quote from High Tech Hobbies for software and licensing in the amount of \$6,129.56 and for a server, not to exceed \$5,190.00. These purchases are for Unifund implementation. O'Neal voted against the motion. O'Neal stated her concerns regarding the Unifund expenditures noting the cost to date is over \$57,000 with more costs to come and that the system would be in the office of an elected official with no commissioner oversight.
- On motion of Zimmerman/Shelley approved the Unifund IT Services for Unifund Implementation in the amount of \$4,892.00. O'Neal voted against the motion.
- On motion of O'Neal/Shelley and unanimously carried, approved a recommendation from the County Records Improvement Fund Committee to purchase a computer and printer for the Coroner's office in the amount of \$1,458.92.
- On motion of O'Neal/Shelley and unanimously carried, approved Comprehensive Plan check #137, payable to Rettew Associates in the amount of \$1,319.20.

#### Salary Board

No business was brought before the Board.

#### Retirement Board

No business was brought before the Board.

On motion of O'Neal/Shelley and unanimously carried, the Board adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

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Jeffrey M. Zimmerman, Chairman

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Dale S. Shelley, Vice Chairman

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Teresa J. O'Neal, Secretary

Submitted for approval

Sherlyn Mosebey