

Carroll County Commissioners Minutes

Wednesday, October 29, 2008

Commissioners Present: David Sorensen, Marge Webster, Peter Olkkola

Others Present: David Babson, Dorothy Solomon, Chip Albee, Maureen Spencer, Rod Cools, Robin Reade, Nate Giarnese.

Meeting called to order: 8:15 a.m. by David Sorensen

Public Input

* Maureen Spencer asked about the location of the new sign that was approved and where it would be located. Commissioner Sorensen said that it would be located in the same spot as the old sign but would have two sides and sit perpendicular with an arrow pointing in the appropriate direction.

* Dorothy Solomon questioned why Scott Carr's name was still listed as Sherriff on the web site and also why Forrest Painter is still listed as Human Services Director. Commissioner Sorensen responded that he was aware of this and the site would be corrected.

* David Babson reported that he was having issues when accessing the website. Robin Reade responded that the web site developer would need to continue working on the site to update all the information as it is provided.

Mr. Babson indicated that this was not the problem as he was only missing a section of the page. Jon Hebert suggested that Mr. Babson question Dave Myers on the issue and that he may be able to help him

* Jon Hebert questioned about the Sheriffs Department webpage and Robin Reade answered that there was a link from the County page to the Sheriff Department page. The Sheriffs department would continue to maintain their own web page.

* David Babson wanted to know if the Farm people received a uniform allowance. Commissioner Sorenson said that they receive \$100 apiece and that they were going to increase this to \$200 so that wet weather gear could be purchased.

* David Babson asked why are we buying fertilizer in bags rather than in bulk. Commissioner Sorenson answered that it was much easier to spread when received in

bags because it came on pallets and could be moved easier and poured into the hopper, instead of having a bucket loader available.

* David Babson wanted to know if there would be a line item in the budget for the purchase of hay. Commissioner Sorenson responded that it was addressed by the delegation and approved for purchasing the hay as long as it was within the farms budget.

It will be added as a line item for next years budget.

* David Babson asked about why soil testing had not been done for five years and

Commissioner Sorenson said it should be done every three years.

David Babson stated that it only cost \$12.

* David Babson questioned about revenue from plowing as the figures changed from \$8k to \$18k. Commissioner Sorenson replied that it was a bad year and it was reflected in

the figures. David Babson also wanted to know when the rate was changed from \$25 to

\$75 for use of the backhoe and Commissioner Sorenson said that it was done when it was

done. Babson stated that it should be reflected because it is going from one pocket to the

other. Commissioner Sorenson agreed that it would.

* Maureen Spencer asked about the minutes relating to the budget on the website and when

the details would be available. Commissioner Sorenson stated that the

hearing on the budget would be held by the delegation on the 10th of December and there

would be a public hearing and a time for public input.

* David Babson questioned if the Commissioner could ask the Delegation Chairman to take

the time with input during the public hearing stating that if the delegation is gone then who

is going to benefit from the public input. Commissioner Webster stated that legislators are

not allowed to ask questions during public input as stated in the RSA.

* Commissioner Sorenson stated that a red diesel truck was purchased and that Commissioner Olkkola negotiated the price of the truck down from \$42k to \$35k and the

budget for the bed of the truck will be added to next years budget. It was purchased from

Deprizio and has 200 miles on it. A special license is not needed to operate the vehicle.

* Commissioner Sorenson questioned David Babson about finding a hay dealer from which to

purchase hay. A 30# bale of Canadian hay is \$6.00. David Babson inquired if there was a

scale available to weigh bales so that they know size to weight comparison.

Commissioner

Sorenson said there is no scale on which to weigh the hay.

* Commissioner Sorenson stated that Public Service will be cutting some pine trees down on

the property and they will be cut up into boards, beams, and other lengths. It will be sold

and Allen will be charging \$200 per 1000. The market price of pine boards is \$500 per

1000 so a small profit is possible.

* Chip Albee asked if a logger had been contracted for this, Commissioner Sorenson replied

that the contract had not been established. Commissioner Webster added that the same contractor had been used for many years. Extension Forester sets up the contracts with Taylor. The previous job has not been finished due to training on the rifle range. In the near future that area will need to be finished; to make it worthwhile another section on the mountainside will also be included.

* Jon Hebert added that the qualifications on the range should be finished by Friday.

* Commissioner Webster stated that the minutes from the meetings would be posted on the web site after approval. David Babson asked how that would work since they must be available within 5 business days. Commissioner Webster answered that five business days would take it until Wednesday of the following week before posting. David Babson expressed concern that the minutes were not available soon enough to make corrections and discuss them in the following session. Commissioner Webster stated that the minutes would be available online on Wednesday afternoon and a paper copy would be available during the meeting in the morning. David Babson expressed further concern on the time frame between the approval and posting of minutes and the discussion of minutes from the previous session. Mr. Babson also expressed concern that the lapse between meetings and approval would cause issues with the public input. The discussion included input from Chip Albee, Rod Cools, and Maureen Spencer.

* Commissioner Sorenson closed public input at 8:30 am and asked that the minutes of October 22, 2008 be approved. The motion was so moved by Commissioner Webster and seconded by Commissioner Olkkola.

* Commissioner Sorenson provided information on the money that is given out by the incentive program to fifteen different agencies. This will include Carroll County House of Corrections for the first time and they will be given \$20k to aid the children of the CCHOC detainees.

Amy Morin, Hales Location

* Tax season for Hales Location warrant

* Veterans exemptions that will take effect in 2009

* Commissioner Sorenson asked about insurance progress. Amy Morin responded that it

was a work in process but that all the equipment did belong to us but there was a question

on the copier. Commissioner Webster stated that the copier is included in the contents.

The type of insurance was discussed as well as use of the facility. The office can be moved

down here and they can pay rent for the space. Liability insurance on the property cannot

be obtained until a contract is in place.

* Commissioner Sorenson inquired about school contracts; Amy Morin responded that the

contracts have been submitted to the State after having been signed by Commissioners and SAU 9. The State Board of Education now must approve them. There are 4 students but 2 children are part time residents. Amy Morin will talk to the Conway School Board on this issue.

Jason Johnson, H.O.C.

* Commissioners Sorenson and Webster commented on the new uniforms for the H.O.C.

* Current population in house is 50, 4 on electronic monitor, 2 transfer for a total population of 56.

* Total number of admitted inmates for the week was 14 (6 repeaters) and total number of released inmates for the week was 17.

* Repeater charges; 1 for violation of probation, 1 for DWI 2nd, 1 for receiving stolen property, 1 for control drug act, 1 for protective custody and 1 for warrant

* The farm has been taking out on average 4 inmates per day for the last week.

Nursing

Home used 0 inmates. Eligible inmates = 5

* Hired two additional officers that bring us to full staff. One officer started on October 15,

2008 and the other is scheduled to begin on November 2, 2008.

* Promotion boards were held Tuesday and Officers Frank Eaton and Michael Fowler were promoted to the rank of Corporal.

* Eastern Sprinkler was in Tuesday and conducted the third quarter sprinkler test.

The

system passed.

* H.O.C. is currently researching setting up a recycling program to bring more funds to the

county. Corporal Peter Cummings of Coos County has been contacted as they have the

program in place already. We would like to go up and see how they operate and how they

got started. Commissioner Sorenson questioned what type of recycling and was informed

that it was inside (soda bottles, cans, etc) that would be part of the inmate work program.

* Captain Johnson inquired if it would be possible to acquire a commercial shredder. David Babson added that the way the material is handled at the recycling plant any confidential papers should be shredded.

* Commissioner Sorenson stated that Steve Eldridge would be heard this morning regarding

a contract with North Conway Incinerator as well as NRRRA (Northeast Resource

Recovery).

* Commissioner Webster asked if any officers were at the Academy and was informed by Captain Johnson that there were none at the moment. This will be explained in Executive Session.

* Commissioner Sorenson questioned if the two new officers hired were certified. Captain Johnson replied that they were not. There are also two other officers that need to attend. Two will be scheduled for the next academy in spring of '09.

Commissioner Webster made motion to move to non-public session for personnel issues at the jail at 8:45am. Commissioner Sorenson seconded the motion. Out of non-public session at 9:10 am.

Allen Seguin, Farm

* 11,901 bales of hay have been baled. All feed hay has been delivered. 1400 bales of mulch hay is left.

* Firewood is being cut and 51 cords have been cut so far. There are 25 to 30 cord left with most of that being green or partially green wood.

* Commissioner Sorenson asked if Allen has called around for buying outside hay. Try to find hay as soon as possible without going over budget.

* David Babson said that he had seen a truck advertising hay.
<http://www.thehayguy.com/>

* Commissioner Sorenson asked if all of the equipment is under cover. Allen replied that it was.

* Commissioner Sorenson told Allen to contact someone for loam immediately and have it spread where the drainage problem is before it snows. Have George and some inmates get it raked and seeded. Allen agreed.

* Commissioner Webster asked if people were buying green wood. Allen said yes, that when people ask if they have wood he tells them there is just green wood and people are buying it for reserve.

* Commissioner Sorenson asked if wood was being sold for boiling sap instead of for heating purposes. Commissioner Olkkola replied that he knows of no one who would use hard wood for boiling sap. Allen Seguin said that they use pine slabs and pine wood.

* Commissioner Sorenson asked how the wood is being measured for cords and Allen Seguin

replied that they used to have a metal frame that they stacked full but now they know the level in the truck needed to equal a cord.

* Commissioner Sorenson asked Jon Hebert where he gets his cars lettered in reference to

putting the seal on the new truck. Jon Hebert responded that he has them done by someone who works for the county. A camera-ready image of the County seal would be needed to have this done.

Jon Hebert, Sheriff's Office

* The phone problems will be taken care of by Fairpoint who will install a generator in the next few weeks.

* Jon Hebert informed Commissioner Sorenson that he contacted the DES in regard to the shooting range and the lead issue. Contact person for the DES is Mike Gallesca (466-4389). He will research the situation and be back in contact.

* Commissioner Webster, David Babson and Commissioner Sorenson offered general input in this discussion.

* David Babson had previously discussed the issue of the Bailiffs with John Hebert. Jon Hebert addressed this problem but said it is a temporary problem and should be addressed in Concord. He is not looking to add a line item to the budget, as the state should

take care of the problem. The sheriffs association is in discussion with the government for

putting funds in next years budget for hire and training of bailiffs. This is not confirmed at

this time. Commissioner Sorenson asked how Jon Hebert came up with the daily rate for

the bailiffs. Jon Hebert stated that with assistance from Michelle he compiled a list of what

the different state offices paid and used the figures to produce a high and low estimate. The

high figure was \$107 and this was from the only county that has no trouble getting bailiffs.

Jon Hebert stated that five bailiffs will be leaving in January and there are no people waiting for hire. This is detrimental to the safety and security of the court building.

* Chip Albee was concerned about the distribution of funds for the county and how

It is divided. When the county gets involved with distributing money it needs to benefit the whole county. The issue of bailiffs is lacking this aspect in that there

are two courts in this county and that both courts need equal protection. Both courts are serving the county. There was a supposition that one deputy had

been calling Conway, telling the bailiffs there that the bailiffs at the County are going to be getting more money or are working to get more money and that this

would be a better place to work. This action undermines the effort that Jon

Hebert is putting in to the bailiff issue in the county. Whether AOC is responsible

or the County is responsible; it needs to be done equally. Jon Hebert replied that

he has been diligently attacking the issue. Concord is where it should be addressed and should be paid at that level for the good of the whole state. The responsibility

of securing the District Court in Northern Carroll County is the responsibility of the Administrative Office of Courts (AOC). All bailiffs in the state should be paid the same and Jon Hebert is working on this issue with the AOC. Commissioner Sorenson asked if Nat Gernaise from the Conway Daily Sun could conduct a poll of the candidates for the House of Representatives and the senators to see how they stand on this issue. Commissioner Webster suggested the question "Do you believe that the state should meet its responsibility from AOC for the court bailiffs. Commissioner Sorenson asked if anyone else had a comment on the bailiff issue. Commissioner Olkkola asked about the cost of bailiffs per day.

* Commissioner Olkkola asked Jon Hebert how things were running over at the "pig House". Jon Hebert replied that things were going very well. Commissioner Sorenson said that the trailer over there is for metal so anything can be thrown in there and it will be filled and taken away hopefully before it snows.

Forrest Painter, Mountain View Nursing Home

* The private rate currently is \$230 per day.

* Budget increase of 3% would bring this figure to \$238.

The actual cost per day is \$290 based on the actual census. This includes skilled bed days.

* Commissioner Sorenson asked what Forrest Painter would recommend for private pays. Forrest Painter will be researching what the average in the county is.

This will be discussed for next years budget.

* Census is at 96 at this time.

* Commissioner Olkkola questioned who pays Dr. Lewis's malpractice insurance.

* Forrest Painter responded that Dr. Lewis pays his own as he is a private practice physician and is paid a stipend.

* Commissioner Sorenson asked how many physicians are available for the nursing home. Forrest Painter responded that there were three.

Steve Eldridge, Maintenance Mountain View Nursing Home

* Commissioner Sorenson asked what the status of the dumpster is right now. Steve Eldridge replied that right now it is getting full and that a welder has been contacted (White's Welding). The dumpster will be power washed and the welder will fix all the weak spots. A piston has been ordered for \$500 to have in case the old one breaks on a weekend.

* Commissioner Sorenson questioned the purchase of a new piston when the old one

is still functioning. Steve Eldridge replied that the old one might stop working at any time and should be replaced to avoid this happening.

* Commissioner Sorenson asked about the status of NRRRA (Northeast Region Recycle) Steve Eldridge stated that NRRRA would charge \$400 monthly for the haul rate but would pay for cardboard and paper by weight. (\$55 per ton)

All the cardboard boxes will need to be broken down. All people will have to be educated in the recycle process.

* Commissioner Sorenson asked where this new dumpster from NRRRA would be

located. Steve Eldridge replied that it would go next to the old one.

* Commissioner Sorenson asked when this could be implemented and Steve Eldridge answered that it could be started as soon as needed.

* Commissioner Olkkola asked if Steve had talked to other offices involved in the recycle process. Steve said that he has not touched base with everyone yet but he will do that regarding the recycle process.

* Commissioner Webster requested that Steve Eldridge contacts Jason Johnson to coordinate their recycle planning.

* Commissioner Olkkola questioned the cost for a single haul. Steve Eldridge replied that they are going to swap the dumpster each time to reduce the cost and eliminate down time.

* Commissioner Webster stated that if this recycle program was instituted that a commercial shredder would have to be obtained. Find out how much would it cost.

* Commissioner Sorenson asked if this was a contract. Steve Eldridge replied that it was just a proposal at this time and a contract would be written when the needs were ascertained. He questioned if it would be better to lease it or buy it. Steve Eldridge said that the cost is between \$16k and \$17k to purchase.

* Commissioner Webster pointed out that the lease would be \$25k per year and is it possible to lease it until January and then add the purchase to the budget for next year.

* Commissioner Sorenson asked if this was the dumpster that would be used at the new nursing home. Steve Eldridge replied that it could be if a different type of dumpster was used. Commissioner Webster pointed out that it still might be cost effective to buy the dumpster.

* Commissioner Sorenson asked David Babson what his insight on the situation was. David

Babson stated that first a shredder was needed. He was concerned on the wording of the

possible contract figures. Is it 48 months X \$530 or is it 34 payments of \$530 plus an

extra 2 payments. Commissioner Webster also questioned the cost of lease vs. purchase.

* David Babson stated that the NRRRA is a yearly fee there is no contract involved. Whatever they can get for your paper is what you get. Read the last line of option number

two. A ten yard dumpster is not an option due to lack of customers in the area. Suggested

that a new unit is added to next years budget due to liability of hauling the old container. A

savings of \$8k to \$9k seems possible if everyone trained. Also the cost of fuel may lower

the price in the future.

* Commissioner Sorenson asked if a new dumpster is put in the budget for next year do we

still need to spend \$500 on a new piston?

* Commissioner Olkkola suggested tabling the issue until next week when we have more

information on the condition of the dumpster and the style needed for the present and the new nursing home.

* A discussion on the piston between Steve Eldridge, David Babson and Commissioner

Sorenson ensued. It was decided that the piston would be purchased and the old dumpster welded at this time.

* Commissioner Sorenson asked how the maintenance was progressing at MVNH. Steve Eldridge stated that the roof was being sealed so there should be no leaks this winter.

The security lights will be replaced at a lower cost than first reported for all the doors. This

was submitted a few months ago and was recently approved.

* Commissioner Olkkola questioned how the painting was going. Steve Eldridge stated that

they were waiting for the color consultant before painting. Commissioner Olkkola wanted

to know why a color consultant was needed. No painting had been done since May.

Commissioner Olkkola asked if the paint was sitting over there. Steve Eldridge stated that

the only paint over there was the paint that had been purchased for one wing. The colors

were an issue between the nurses, residents, and their families. Commissioner Olkkola

stated that the painting should all be done by now.

Commissioner Webster made motion that the meeting be moved to non-public session for personnel issues at the Mountain View Nursing Home at 10:15am.

Final Comments

* Public was informed at 11:00am that the remainder of the meeting would stay in non-public session.