

Hamilton County Commissioner's Court

Regular Session

Wednesday, May 30, 2012

9:00 A.M.

Hamilton County Commissioner's Court met on Wednesday, May 30, 2012 at 9:00 A.M. in Regular Session with the following members present: County Judge Randy Mills, Commissioners Jim Boatwright, Mark Tafel, Jon Bonner and Dickie Clary.

The meeting was called to order and Judge Mills opened with prayer.

Richard Layne stated in public comments that he was concerned about the status of the courthouse annex repairs and the insurance money we had received for damages.

Damon Chumney also inquired about the \$90,000 insurance money that the county had received to make the repairs on the courthouse annex. He advised the court to keep the public updated.

The court moved to Item Nine (9.) of the agenda-Discuss/Approve legal action regarding recovery of uncollected taxes for Hamilton County Appraisal District.

Commissioner Clary stated that he had been inquiring and was working on a cost estimate plan for the repairs at the county courthouse annex. Judge Mills also stated that there had been \$40,000.00 SECO grant money spent on replacing the air conditioning at the annex.

Hamilton County Environmental Inspector Director Billy Hopson gave the court a brief overview of the progress being made. Mr. Hopson stated that 371 properties had been identified and seven site visits. Of the seven site visits two did not pass, one was approved and there are four pending.

The legal action has been discussed for over a year now regarding the error made on the 2010 tax statements when the county's debt service portion was not assessed. The court stated that this was a real public relations problem and why it was not pursued until now. The county had addressed it upon making the discovery and thought that possibly the Hamilton County Appraisal District's error's and omission's insurance would cover this human error. But indeed the insurance company stated that there was a remedy for this error therefore they would not pay on it. The insurance company stated that tax statements for the portion that was overlooked would be sent out for the collection of these taxes. The court talked at length about forgiving the error and rescinding the order previously issued and re-issuing a court order. There will be more discussion at a future meeting of the commissioner's court. The court requested that Chief Appraiser Doyle Roberts prepare a sample tax statement and submit to the commissioner's court for approval to help avoid in problems with the tax assessment in the future.

A motion was made by Bonner and seconded by Clary to approve the following budget amendments: Precinct Two from Fuel, Uniforms, Schools and Conferences, Water, Auto and Equipment Liability, Non Capital to Road Materials, Equipment Repairs and Capital Equipment, Sheriff's Office from Employee Medical to Schools and Conferences, Precinct 3 from Non Capital to Telephone, Courthouse from Non Capital Equipment to Fuel and Oil and General Repair Annex. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Clary and seconded by Boatwright to approve the following consent agenda:

- A. Minutes of April 23, 2012 Commissioners Court Meeting
- B. Minutes of May 14, 2012 Commissioners Court Meeting
- C. Minutes of May 17, 2012 Commissioners Court Meeting
- D. Approve Departmental Reports
- E. Approve bills submitted for payment in the amount of \$44,678.80

The motion carried unanimously.

Christopher Breaux Representative from Whitley Penn Firm formerly known as Null Lairson presented the county's outside audit. The report was favorable. A motion was made by Boatwright and seconded by Bonner to approve the Hamilton County Annual Outside Financial Audit. The motion carried unanimously.

The court discussed the Hamilton County Courthouse Restoration Program and decided to apply for supplemental funding which \$69,000.00 is available to reach the \$6 million dollar cap. This funding will allow for the acoustical problem in the district courtroom to be addressed.

A motion was made by Clary and seconded by Bonner to approve the bonds renewals for Hamilton County Deputy Justice of the Peace, Precinct One Joy Stevens, Hamilton County Deputy Clerk Shawna Galindo and Hamilton County Deputy Sheriff Kenneth William Schuetz. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Tafel and seconded by Bonner to approve the disable veteran's tax exemption refund of \$55.99 to Weldon Bates. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Boatwright and seconded by Clary to adjourn. The meeting adjourned.

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County Judge

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_

County Clerk

