

**Hamilton County Commissioner's Court**

**Regular Session**

**Tuesday, May 24, 2022**

**9:00 a.m.**

**Hamilton County Commissioner's Court met on Tuesday, May 24, 2022, at 9:00 a.m. with the following members present: County Judge Mark Tynes, Commissioners Johnny Wagner, Keith Curry, Lloyd Huggins and Dickie Clary. Tynes called the meeting to order and a quorum was established. Huggins led the invocation and Tynes followed with the pledges.**

**Roger Pogue of CTWP addressed the Court concerning his company's goods and services. CTWP carries several brands of business machines for offices.**

**There was one budget adjustment. After extensive and heated discussion of the problem involving employees of the Sheriff's Department commuting out-of-county in County vehicles as that relates to the severe budget overage for the Sheriff's Department fuel budget, the Court considered several options to cover the overage. Tynes made the motion to transfer \$13,000.00 from the Contingency Fund into the Fuel & Oil line item. Huggins seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. The Court will consider any future overage as it happens.**

**The Court considered the following consent agenda:**

- A. Minutes from previous Commissioner's Court meetings**
- B. Approve Departmental reports**
- C. Approve bills in the amount of \$72,623.15, in-between bills in the amount of \$819.45; payroll in the amount of \$78,745.80**
- D. Certificates of continuing education - None**
- E. Application(s) for Culvert - Precinct 3: Procyk and Gelineau**
- F. Building and Use Request - Ratification of the fifth grade's Titanic walk-through**
- G. Bonds/Deputations - None**

**Huggins made a motion to approve the consent agenda, and Clary seconded. The Court approved the consent agenda unanimously.**

**There were several Hamilton County personnel changes to report: Chealsie Hughes hired 5/2/22 in County Clerk's office; Carolyn Marshall hired 5/3/22 in Sheriff's Department; Victoria Hazelwood hired 5/2/22 in Dispatch; Stephanie Guthrie hired 5/16/22 in Tax Office. Susan Foster in Tax Office resigned 5/10/22; Robert**

*Summers in Sheriff's Department resigned 5/20/22. Holly Bailey in Tax Office was promoted 5/16/22; Edward Hood in Sheriff's Department was promoted 5/21/22.*

*Clary reported that there were leaks in the Courthouse roof after rains, and roofing company was addressing and repairing as leaks were discovered.*

*The Court was asked to ratify the canvass of ballots from the May 7, 2022, Constitutional Amendment election. Clary made the motion to ratify the ballot canvass, Huggins seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.*

*County Treasurer Tonya Cox reported that as of March 31, 2022, the County had \$4,446,121.35 in cash.*

*Alenco Communications/Pathway Com-Tel offered the County \$1,000.00 per month for lease of space on the new tower to be erected in Fair Park. After a discussion of indemnification and insurance, Huggins made the motion to accept Alenco Communications' offer of \$1,000.00 per month for lease of space on the new tower. Clary seconded and the motion passed unanimously. County Attorney Henkes will negotiate the contract language.*

*The Court was asked to sign the Professional Services Agreement between Tyler Technologies and Hamilton County regarding the new case management system requested by the District Judge in January of this year. The Court will not be able to sign the contract until all costs have been determined, as well as all effects on the FY2022-2023 budget. Tynes will reach out to Judge Carpenter to determine the exact costs involved.*

*Huggins advised that he has the total number of portable and hand-held radios ordered by the various volunteer fire departments. Those totals came in under the budgeted cost. The Emergency Communications workstations have been installed, and the go-live date is still June 15, 2022. The Dry Creek fire of last week involved cooperation of many agencies. The fire burned 1,407 acres. There was, however, significant loss of radio signal from one side of the fire to the other. The radios that had been ordered for Emergency Communications have not been delivered. Huggins suggested an option for the radios: used equipment could be leased from Motorola at a small cost on a month-by-month basis. Huggins made the motion to approve the radio rental from Motorola, Curry seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. Alexander suggested the need for an additional tower to be located in the southwest part of the County. She had previously applied for a SERI Grant to cover a significant portion of the cost of an additional tower.*

*Jonesboro Fire Captain Buster asked Hamilton County Emergency Communications to dispatch Hamilton County emergencies. This would improve response times. There being no objections, the Court agreed to allow Hamilton County Emergency Communications to dispatch to Jonesboro emergencies.*

*Drew Whittington of Government Capital spoke to the Court about a short-term loan to finance the balance of the cost of two communications towers, after application of ARPA funds. After discussion of the costs associated with the current tower contracts, Huggins made the motion to finance \$600,000.00 with Government Capital Corporation for the term of seven years on a low-rate note, giving Tynes the Court's authorization to sign the contract when it is prepared. Additionally, the note could be prepaid in the second year. Clary seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.*

*The Court considered the quote from Gardner HVAC of \$2,600.00 for a mini-split HVAC unit to cool the Emergency Communications server room. Huggins made the motion to approve the quote and subsequent purchase of the HVAC unit, Tynes seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.*

*The decommissioning costs of the surplus vehicles are averaging \$800.00-\$900.00 per vehicle. There are several light bars and one radio which have been removed from the surplus vehicles. That equipment is being requested by the Hico Volunteer Fire Department. Huggins made the motion to declare the light bars and radio as surplus equipment and sell that equipment to the Hico Volunteer Fire Department. Clary seconded and the motion passed unanimously.*

*Tynes reported that unbudgeted revenues of \$25,500.00 had been received and certified.*

*The Court entered into a discussion of the FY2022-2023 budget. The topics discussed were:*

- 1. longevity pay and how to administer it*
- 2. increases in health insurance, auto insurance and property insurance*
- 3. software maintenance*
- 4. retirement expense*
- 5. extra equipment at the Sheriff's Department which will not be moved to Emergency Communications Department, and how it should be valued.*

*The Court adjourned at 11:47 a.m.*

Attest:  County Clerk



*Note: As clarification of the appointment of Judge James Lively to the Central Counties Services Board of Trustees reported in the minutes of May 10, 2022, Judge Lively's term begins September 1, 2022, and ends August 30, 2024.*