



COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioners reach agreement on publication of minutes

The Stafford County Board of County Commissioners met Wednesday, Jan. 30th, present were commissioners Clayton Grimmert, Kurt Fairchild and Shane Stimatze.

Terry Spradley, St John News Editor, visited with the board about the decision to delay the release of county meeting minutes. In an earlier session the commissioners decided to not release minutes until after the members had approved them at the following meeting. Spradley pointed out that would delay printing of the minutes for 14 days or more. He also pointed out that according to the Kansas Open Records Act the minutes were subject to the same requirements as other county records in that they were subject to release within 72 hours if requested.

The commissioners stated that the minutes would be released if a disclaimer was printed stating that these were the "unofficial" minutes. Spradley stated the paper would do that on a space available basis, but the KPA consulting attorney considered requiring it a violation of KORA.

Shepack recommended that the clerk add the words "Draft Minutes" to the minutes before sending to the newspaper. It would be up to the paper whether they printed the disclaimer or not.

"I don't have a problem running that," Spradley said. "I just don't want to be held to that in case for

some reason I can't get it in, and then you, (the commissioners) would try to use that as a reason not to send them in the future."

It was the consensus to supply both newspapers and the website designer with the "Draft Minutes" each week.

Spradley also pointed out that there are no outlets in Macksville or St John to purchase the Stafford Courier, the official county paper. The St. John News has three outlets in Stafford, one in Macksville, and five in St. John.

In other business, Kurt Fairchild moved and Shane Stimatze seconded to approve the minutes of the January 23rd, 2013 regular meeting with a grammatical error corrected. Motion carried 3-0.

Ryan Witt, Noxious Weed Director, presented the annual eradication progress report for 2012. Kurt Fairchild moved and Shane Stimatze seconded to approve the Noxious Weed Eradication Progress report. Motion carried 3-0.

Phillip Nusser, Road Supervisor, met with the board to discuss K-219. KDOT wishes to proceed with the turnback of the 0.995 mile of K-219. There is an offer from the state to pay Stafford County \$ 199,000.00 for taking on the maintenance of the highway. Shane Stimatze moved and Kurt Fairchild seconded to allow Phil to accept the offer from

KDOT with the 0.995 miles of K-219 into Seaward as the county responsibility. Motion carried 3-0.

Kurt Fairchild moved and Shane Stimatze seconded to pursue the grant from High Risk Rural Roads to replace stop signs in the northern half of the county. Motion carried 3-0.

Nick Lauffer, Emergency Services, explained the vehicle and equipment manual that was prepared for the board. Discussion followed on the possible purchase of two 5-ton military 6 x 6 cargo trucks at a price of \$ 5,000.00. The 5 ton trucks are replacing the deuce-and-a-half trucks which have been extremely costly to maintain. Kurt Fairchild moved and Shane Stimatze seconded to purchase 2 - 5-ton military trucks for a price of \$ 10,000.00. Motion carried 3-0.

Tactical radio channels were discussed. Recently, the federal government required all radio users to narrow the radio operating spectrum of the channels. It was expensive to have this contracted out, so the county purchased the equipment to do it in-house. Lauffer has assisted both the county and cities in the changeover. Tactical radio channels are non-repeater channels. The cost of acquiring the tactical radio frequencies is a one-time cost of \$ 410.00 each. Shane Stimatze moved and Kurt Fairchild

seconded to allow the purchase of two tactical channels at a cost of \$ 820.00. Motion carried 3-0.

Carl Miller, Appraiser, discussed the agriculture use values by soil type. Valuation notices be mailed out March 1st. Zoning board members were discussed. Two people have terms that expire - Phyllis Staub and Marion Meschberger. Phyllis does not want to be

re appointed. Marion will take another term. Shane Stimatze's position needs to be filled since it is a conflict for him to serve as a commissioner and a zoning board member. Two people are needed for the board. One from Commission District # 2 and one from Commission District # 3. Economic Development is promoting green houses in the county. Permits will need to be issued through zoning for the projects.

Kurt Fairchild moved and Shane Stimatze seconded to approve the tax roll correction. Motion carried 3-0.

Sheriff Parr was in to discuss vehicle purchasing practices for the Sheriff Department. Deputy Bill Boyle's vehicle is next up on the rotation for replacing. It was the consensus of the board to allow the sheriff to gather bids and return for a decision.

Source: Unofficial minutes for Stafford County Commissioners meeting