

The Adams County Board of Commissioners met August 11, 2020 at 11:00 a.m. in the Adams County Service Complex. Present were Commissioners: Doug Bauman, Kim Fruechte, and Rex Moore; County Attorney, Mark Burry; and Adams County Auditor, Mary Beery.

IN RE: MINUTES

Upon a motion by Kim Fruechte, seconded by Rex Moore, for approval of the Adams County Board of Commissioners' Minutes for August 4, 2020. Motion carried.

IN RE: AUDITOR REPORT

**Health Insurance**

Upon a motion by Kim Fruechte, seconded by Rex Moore, for approval of the Allied Health Insurance funding request for August 10, 2020, in the amount of \$59,761.82 (Medical \$11,190.18 & Pharmacy \$48,571.64). Motion carried.

**Clerk of Circuit Court Monthly Report**

Upon a motion by Rex Moore, seconded by Kim Fruechte, to accept into the record the July 2020 report from the Clerk of the Adams County Circuit Court. Motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report**

Upon a motion by Rex Moore, seconded by Kim Fruechte, to accept into record the July 2020 report from the Treasurer of Adams County. Motion carried.

**Covid-19**

Brianna Brodbeck updated the board on the Covid-19 finances. The county has received \$253,778.43 to date in reimbursement. The legal fees were denied and have to be resubmitted under a new category. Next week she will submit new legal fees along with the ones denied. A portion of the reimbursement was deposited into our bank account and will have to be disbursed to the correct entity.

Motion by Rex Moore, to make the spreadsheet received a part of the record, seconded by Kim Fruechte. Motion carried.

IN RE: COUNTY ENGINEER REPORT

**Cumulative Bridge**

County Engineer, Tim Barkey, addressed the board on the three scour critical bridges B-501, B-152 & B-150. The Commissioners need to choose one of the engineers to do the project. Butler Fairman & Seufert can begin sooner but there are no time constraints. Two bridges do not have the required underwater inspection. If we work around the bridge piers that would take away around the inspections. There is no evidence of any bad scour at those piers. Tim will negotiate a fee from the firm chosen. Tim felt the firms would all be comparable on fees.

Upon a motion by Kim Fruechte, seconded by Rex Moore, for approval of Butler Fairman & Seufert. Motion carried. Tim will notify the firms.

The culvert project on 500 S, located on 000 and US 27, a portion is in the City of Berne and a portion in Adams County. The City of Berne received bids, last week and the low bid of VTF for \$37,600 was chosen.

Berne City Mayor, Gregg Sprunger, and Berne City Building Inspector, Shannon Smitley, were present to represent the City of Berne.

The city and county need to come up with an agreement on cost share. The city got quotes last week and Shannon suggested splitting the costs in half. Each entity would pay \$18,800 towards the project. The grant of easement per City of Berne Attorney, Dave Baumgartner, is the pond and the culvert.

The 1994 agreement states any construction and repair of the ditch will be prorated for city to pay 2/3 and County 1/3. The city must notify the county when they are doing work (plan, design, maintenance, and reconstruction of culvert).

Mark Burry said the proposed 50/50 is a good agreement. Mark was the cities attorney in 1994 and said the culvert was not replaced in 1994; now the road is being redone and the culvert is broken and needs fixed. The culvert was put in to control the storm water with the pond. This helps the storage capacity without overloading the ditch.

The Commissioners approved 50% of construction costs be paid by Adams County.

Bridge B-133, located on county road 000 at Lehman Feed Mill, will open Wednesday or Thursday depending on the guardrail installation.

IN RE: HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Highway Superintendent, Brad Yoder, and Assistant Highway Superintendent, Jaron Brodbeck, updated the board of events.

The High Street property owned by Adams County has been cleaned up. Six employees went in to take care of the tree that was falling and shaved both sides of the property to make it look nice. The neighbors were happy with the outcome. Notices will be sent to adjoining landowners and they would need to bid on the property.

The department is mowing, weed control and attempting to catch up on projects lacking. They are grading and prepping roads (850 S from Highway 116 to 300 W and 750 S from 400 W to 300 W) that are going from stone to chip and seal. They have received permission to remove trees on 200 W.

IN RE: BUILDING MAINTENANCE

**Complex Building**

Building and Grounds Supervisor, Rick Burkhalter, thanked the board for allowing the purchase of the new flag pole at the Service Complex. The celebration went smoothly and he will try to landscape the area.

New LED bulbs were replaced in Superior Court. Rick would like to replace the bulbs in the offices but it will not be done now.

IN RE: ANIMAL CONTROL – PAWS

Miranda Mertz, Patty Daniels, and Cathy Hedrick of PAWS Adams County, met to discuss the animal control & animal shelter contracts. Sally Endorf was there for support.

A lot of time has been spent on lost and found animals which animal control does as well. It would be nice to have all animals in the same place. All of the animals that get into rescue are put in foster homes. Recently there was an over population of cats in the county because they were not neutered. PAWS cares for animals, has them spade or neutered, gives shots, and relocates to a home. Animals are completely vetted before they are adopted. They have a program who helps pay for it and have volunteers in the winter to help care for the animals. They hold animal food drives and fundraisers and are looking for funding through different ways.

The Commissioners asked them to get more information on a building to house the animals in Adams County. The board asked how big of a building would they need. Commissioner Bauman stated a facility and location will become a need to look at down the road. An employee will most likely have to be hired to maintain the shelter. Zoning requirements are necessary.

Miranda shared the finances for PAWS as follows:

2019 income - \$41,910	2019 expenses - \$38,783
2020 income - \$32,261	2020 expenses - \$33,896

PAWS will be meeting with the City of Decatur. The board asked that after they have met with the cities and towns to report back to the Commissioners. The board also advised they contact Wells County and see what steps they followed.

IN RE: SAVE ON ENERGY COSTS

Eric Heshner & Doug Ahlfeld, from Renewable Energy Systems, made a presentation on their energy savings project. Revised financial aspect to see where they can reduce the costs. Once approved with a contract they will bond for a building for 17 or 15 years. This only works if cash flow is positive. Will have positive cash flow system by end of first year. Energy savings pays the bond. Would like to get ground work done by the end of 2020 and 2.5 acres is needed. The cost will be \$1.6 million for both places (highway & jail). Discussed if there is room to put panels to the south of the Judicial Center. They will send Mark Burry a standard contract agreement to look over.

Mark Burry expressed the need to contact Elevatus to make sure we are looking at the best area.

IN RE: COUNTY ATTORNEY

County Attorney, Mark Burry, has nothing to report.

IN RE: ADJOURN

Upon a motion Kim Fruechte, seconded by Doug Bauman, the meeting for August 11, 2020 was adjourned. Motion carried.

ATTEST: Mary B. Beery  
Mary B. Beery, Adams County Auditor

Kim A. Fruechte  
Kim A. Fruechte, Commissioner

Rex Moore  
Rex Moore, Commissioner

Douglas L. Bauman  
Douglas L. Bauman, Chairman

IN RE: EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion by Kim Fruechte, to convene the executive session for August 11, 2020, seconded by Rex Moore. Motion carried.

The Adams County Commissioners held an executive session in the Commissioners room of the Adams County Service Complex on Tuesday, August 11, 2020 beginning at 12:15 p.m., following their regular meeting, concerning the following:

Discussion concerning pending or threatened litigation:  
I.C. 5-14-1.5-6.1(b)(2)(B)

Employee Conduct  
I.C. 5-14-1.5-6.1(b)(6)(A)

Nothing other than what was advertised was discussed and no decision was made.

Present were Commissioners; Rex Moore, Kim Fruechte, and Doug Bauman; County Attorney, Mark Burry; and Adams County Auditor, Mary Beery.

Upon a motion Kim Fruechte, seconded by Rex Moore, to adjourn the executive session for August 11, 2020. Motion carried.

ATTEST: Mary B. Beery  
Mary B. Beery, Adams County Auditor