

January 4, 2010

The Jefferson County Board of Commissioners convened in regular session on Monday January 4, 2010 at 1:00 p.m. Present were Commissioners Richard Malm, Roy Dunnaway, Lynn Luck, Jan Hayes, County Counselor and County Clerk, Linda M. Buttron.

Vouchers were reviewed and approved by the Counselor and the Board. The Board signed shared sick leave donations. Lynn moved that the minutes of December 28, 2009 be approved as presented. Roy seconded. All voted in favor of the motion. Richard moved that Nelda Bodenheimer, Winchester be appointed to fill the unexpired term of Michael Stephan as Jefferson Township Trustee and member of Jefferson County Fire District #10 Board. Roy seconded. All voted in favor of the motion. A letter of appointment was signed.

Francis Hubbard, Road and Bridge met with the Board. Francis reported crews are still moving snow. Repair and replacement of trucks was discussed. Francis reported that work on the 3rd street bridge will continue when the weather improves.

Eloise Tichenor, Planning & Zoning met with the Board. Eloise reported that there were 37 permits issued in 2009, (down from 2008's 48 permits). At the height of construction (1998-2006) the County issued an average of 93 permits. The average estimated cost of each dwelling was \$114,540.54 for the 4th quarter of 2009. She also discussed the January 31, 2010 expiration of term for Tim Bailey for the Planning Commission. (He is willing to serve another term.) Lynn moved that Tim Bailey be reappointed to serve on the Planning Commission for a three year term to end January 31, 2013. Roy seconded. All voted in favor of the motion.

Mary Underwood, County Treasurer met with the Board to answer last week's questions with regard to the cost of conducting a tax sale. Mary reported that the 2003 tax sale held in 2005 cost the County \$26,000 out of pocket. There are 260 parcels in next sale. The abstracting fee for those parcels is estimated to be \$26,000. Mary discussed having plexi-glass windows installed at the front counter to stop the spread of germs coming across the counter. With no objection heard from the Commissioners she will go ahead with the project.

Mark Roberts, Ozawkie met with the Board. Mark discussed a problem with the billing practices of the ambulance department for services received October 9, 2009. When he inquired about the billing statement first received on December 15th he was notified that he was 60 days past due. He stated that the first bill he received was December 15 and did not understand how his account could become delinquent. Mark asked that he receive written verification that the account is not delinquent and that the matter is resolved. James Tweed, Ambulance Director responded that a response has not been given as he has been out on leave and will get a letter to Mark today.

Jim Schonherr, McLouth met with the Board regarding practice of how tow services are rotated. Also present were Sheriff Jeff Herrig; Sherri Mabary, 911 Communications; Doug Schmitt, Emergency Management Director; Eloise Tichenor, Planning & Zoning Director. Jim discussed concerns of his and other tow companies in the County regarding Bulldog Towing providing service in Jefferson County. He stated that Bulldog Towing does not have a business front in the County nor were they required to put in a tow lot (as the existing providers were) and they are not in the County on a 24-hour basis. Doug discussed how other counties handle the rotation of tow service calls. Eloise Tichenor discussed contact from the owner of Bulldog Towing regarding the zoning on the property where the tow area is located (General Leasing and Marketing). The area is designated as a salvage area. She stated that would be a consistent use with the conditional use permit issued on that land. Sherri Mabary discussed how the dispatch software decides what company to recommend for tow. There are currently four towing services

in the County, three in Oskaloosa and one in Meriden. Jeff spoke with regard to his opinion on the issue of a company housed in Douglas County but doing business in Jefferson County. Roy asked that Jeff work with Doug to draft a policy that would address some of the concerns and meet the needs of the citizens as well as County agencies involved. Richard asked for pictures of the tow lot for Bulldog Towing. He also asked that contact be made with K-4 Automotive requiring one contact number for dispatch to call when a tow is needed instead of multiple numbers as is required now.

Virginia Dienstbier, Rural Development Association of Northeast Kansas met with the Board regarding Jefferson County's participation in the Neighborhood Stabilization Project. She stated that it has been difficult finding a home to purchase with the funds from the project. This has been a problem across the State as is shown by the fact that no funds were drawn across the state until November 2009. The cost to purchase and rehab houses in Jefferson County exceeds the income limitations set out in the requirements of the grant award. The Board indicated by consensus that they want to discontinue the project. The County will need to send a letter to the Kansas Department of Commerce stating their intent.

Eileen Filbert, Health Department met with the Board. Eileen discussed the 2010 mileage reimbursement policy. The IRS and the State of Kansas are rolling back the reimbursement rate to 50 cents per mile beginning January 1, 2010. Lynn moved that the Board temporarily suspend the portion of Employee Handbook Policy #512 regarding the mileage reimbursement rate, (based on the IRS and State change in mileage rates) and impose a rate of 50 cents per mile until December 31, 2010 at which time the suspension will expire and the policy as written will take effect, (unless circumstances warrant another change). Richard seconded. All voted in favor of the motion.

The Board discussed the contract offered by Hayes & Hayes for conducting the tax sale. Lynn moved that the contract be approved and signed. Richard seconded. All voted in favor of the motion.

There being no further business to come before the Board they adjourned to meet in regular session Monday January 11, 2010.