

JENNINGS COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

January 9, 2024 @ 6:00 p.m.

Annex Building

Tina Ellis, Howard Malcomb, Mike Gerth, Dave Woodall, Many Creech, Gene Rudicel, and Jerry Lamb. were present. Sarah Abel opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. She also took attendance of all council members present.

Sarah opens nominations for Council President. Dave nominated Tina Ellis; Howard Malcomb seconded the nomination. Gene motioned that the nomination be closed, approved unanimously.

Tina opened with thanking the council for the nomination and welcomed Jerry Lamb to the council. Tina opens nominations for council vice president; Gene makes a motion to nominate Mike Gerth as council vice president, Dave seconded the nomination. Howard made a motion to close the nomination, passed unanimously.

Mike made a motion to accept and approve the minutes as read, Gene seconded the motion, motion passed. Jerry, Dave, and Mandy abstained from the vote.

Marie Shepherd submitted a packet to the commissioners for a new vehicle, to replace the inspector's vehicle. The Equinox is 2015 with 178,000 miles. It uses a lot of oil and has been in and out of the shop. The Equinox was purchased in 2016 and had been a good vehicle. The quote from Country Chevrolet for the new truck is \$43760.00. They may possibly trade the old vehicle in for \$1500.00. Marie will check with the commissioners and see how they want to proceed with the sell/trade. Dave stated that the council and commissioners will have a joint session and discuss where the money will be pulled from to make this purchase. Dave made a motion to approve the purchase in the amount of \$43760.00. The truck purchase will be funded by ARPA. Howard made a motion to approve the purchase. Passed unanimously.

Mary Kilgore came to the council in November asking for more money for her part-time person. The council explained to Mary that nothing could be approved or completed until after the 1st of the year. The reason for this is that the 2024 Budget had already been advertised and adopted. Mary is asking for an additional \$4621.00 for her part-time employee. This additional money would allow her to pay her part time person \$17.00 per hour. Her part-time employee has been employed for 10 months and she has a lot of responsibility and is an exceptional employee. Mary says that she (part time employee) is an exception to the rule. This part time person is making \$15.00 per hour and the increase for the 2024 budget was 4% for salaries. With this 4% pay increase for the 2024 budget her part-time person will be making \$15.60 per hour.

Tina asked Mary why her part-time pay line was over budget \$964.00. Tina said this is the reason it is important to have a set hourly pay and to know how many hours the employee will be working. Mary stated that she was unaware of the over budgeted account. Jerry asked what the normal pay for a part-time employee was and Dave stated that most are at \$15.00 per hour, but there were some employees making less than the \$15.00. Mike explains that he thinks that when they were figuring out the 4% pay increase, he believes that it was based off 10 months and not 12. The current budgeted amount for 2024 is \$18008.00 annually. The pay rate of \$15.60 per hour multiplied by 56 hours per period multiplied by 26 would equal \$22,713.60. Mike said that his issue with giving one employee \$17.00 per hour is not right. Mike and Dave both agree that all part-time employees need reviewed for a pay increase. Gene says that if they approve the \$17.00 per hour for her employees, everyone will be coming to the next meeting wanting their part time persons pay increased. Mary says she understands that, but she cannot keep part time help, so she needs a pay increase. Mike made a motion to increase Mary's part time person to

\$22,713.00 annual, which is equivalent to \$15.60 per hour. Howard seconded the motion, passed unanimously. Mary said that she would complete a transfer form to bring the part time account line to a positive status.

Commissioners approved Nicci to change to a 40-hour work week from a 35-hour work week. Nicci will need an additional appropriation of \$6713.08 to cover her 2024 salary. Dave says that this will eliminate some of her comp time. Howard makes a motion to approve the additional appropriations, Gene seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Randy Shepherd came to the commissioners and said that the appropriation for Level 2 pay was short by \$413.00 according to the salary ordinance. Four employees that have earned their Level 2 were paid \$1346.46 in 2023. Randy said that when he came before council to request an additional appropriation of \$1377.00 for another employee that earned his Level 2, he went off the appropriated amount and not the amount on the salary ordinance. With the salary ordinance showing more than the appropriations, this employee would have been shorted \$103.00 for the year. Randy said that to make up the shortages in the level 2 pay for 2023, he would need \$639.16. Mike made a motion to approve the additional appropriations of \$639.16, Gene seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Level 2 appropriation for 2024 was budgeted for \$4000.00 and that is incorrect. Reedy Financial misunderstood that the level 2 pay can take the salary increase of 4%. Randy states that the 2024 salary ordinance should be \$7697.04. Gene made a motion to approve the additional appropriation for \$3697.00. Dave seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Level 3 pay for 2023 was shorted \$492.42 according to the salary ordinance. There are 2 employees that get paid for Level 3 pay. Howard made a motion to approve the appropriation of \$491.42, Gene seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Level 3 for 2024 was budgeted for \$3000.00. This was incorrect also. The level 3 pay should get an increase of 4% also. Dave made a motion to approve \$2043.00, Gene seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Dave thinks that a meeting needs to be set up with Reedy. Tina states The Reassessment fund had a percentage decrease a few years back and that we need to get the percentage raised back up so that the fund does not get depleted. Tina will follow up with Reedy to see if this has been resolved.

Randy states that Cheryl and himself draw an additional salary due to a change in state law in 2008. The township trustees were responsible for the assessments of properties and with the changes in state law, the assessment was given to the county assessor. In 2008, former Assessor, Linda Kovacich came to the council and had the salary that was given to the trustees shifted to the county assessor. The appropriation was \$412.00 short compared to the salary ordinance. Randy and Cheryl were paid the correct amount, but the line item was short for the year. The 2024 Salary Ordinance should be \$31080.00, so there will need to be an additional \$428.00 appropriated. Randy said that if the council does not approve the additional \$428.00, they would be okay for the year. Gene made a motion to approve the \$428.00, Dave seconded the motion, passing unanimously.

Randy also asked about elected officials' salaries for 2024. What was the intent of the difference in the pay increases for 2024. There are three department heads at \$50,100.00, one at \$49,100.00 and one at \$48,070.00. Dave says every department head is valuable, as well as their employees. He thinks that the department heads need to be at an even salary. Randy only saw his salary at budget time, he did not see that other department heads got a bigger raise. The council says that the department heads need to see the whole budget and not just their individual budget. Randall is asking for an additional \$2030.00 to bring his salary up to the other department heads. Mary

would need an additional \$1000.00 to bring her up to \$50,100.00. The salary has been set and elected officials' salaries cannot be altered after the budget has been approved. Tina is requesting that this be tabled so she can do some research.

There were some errors on the budget and will require additional appropriation:

Courthouse Security will need an additional \$2,472.00 to match Annex Security. Gene made a motion to approve, Dave seconded the motion, and passed unanimously.

The secretary at the jail will need an additional \$4019.00 to be at the salary the sheriff requested for her. Dave motioned to approve the additional, Gene seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

The probation department will need additional appropriations for the following items that were omitted from the 2024 budget:

4935.10209.000 - \$8112.00

4935.10313.000 - \$8112.00

4935.10409.000 - \$8112.00

4935.10509.000 - \$8112.00

4935.10605.000 - \$8112.00

4935.10706.000 - \$8112.00

Gene made a motion to approve these appropriations, Mandy seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

EMS was approved for new EMT but the additional line was not added to the budget. The overtime budget was cut \$35,000 to be able to fund this position. Tracy said that EMS has collected around \$150,000 for the last quarter of 2023. Included in this amount are old debt. Dave made a motion to approve the additional appropriation, Gene seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Tracy is also asking if \$1818.00 can be transferred from 1170.11103.0302 to 1170.10304.302. Gene made a motion to approve the transfer, Howard seconded the motion, and passed unanimously. The highway department contacted the auditor's office and stated that the 3 foremen at the county highway should all make the same salary. There was discussion among the council about the salaries that the foreman is drawing. The commissioners requested that the foreman all make the same money. Not approved, no motion.

There was some discussion with the Operator 2 salary. Council shows that the 2023 salary was \$37440.00 and the 4% raise would be \$38938.00, which is the 2024 budgeted amount.

2024 Council Board Appointments:

911 Board – Jeff Jones & Jerry Lamb (Replacing Charlie Weber)

Animal Control – Dave Woodall

EDC Board – Mike Gerth, Tina Ellis, Howard Malcomb

EMA – Gene Rudicel

SISWD – Mike Gerth

TIF – Dave made a motion to appoint Tina Ellis (replace Charlie Weber), Gene seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Tri-County Water Board – Mandy Creech

Tourism – Tina Ellis

Wage Committee – Dave Woodall

2024 County Council Liaison:

Circuit Court – Tina Ellis

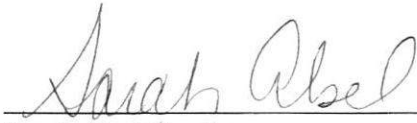
Superior Court – Jerry Lamb
Jennings County Highway – Dave Woodall
Treasurer – Howard Malcomb
JC Extension – Jerry Lamb
Human Resources – Tina Ellis
Animal Control – Dave Woodall
Veteran Services – Gene Rudicel
Clerk – Mandy Creech
Soil & Water – Tina Ellis
Area Plan – Dave Woodall
911 – Jerry Lamb
Assessor – Gene Rudicel
Probation – Gene Rudicel
Prosecutor – Gene Rudicel
JC Commissioner – Dave Woodall
Emergency Services – Mike Gerth
Park – Howard Malcomb
Health Department – Tina Ellis
Sheriff Department – Mike Gerth
Recycling Center – Mandy Creech
Recorder – Mandy Creech
Surveyor – Mike Gerth
Coroner – Tina Ellis
Auditor – Tina Ellis

Jerry Lamb asked for a list of names and phone numbers for the Department Heads and for the Council Members. The Auditor will provide this for Jerry.

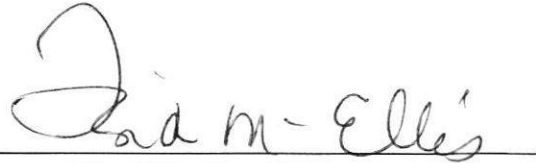
Commissioners asked Alex if he could investigate the Centerstone billing. The sheriff will not use Centerstone for any mental health issues at the jail. Gene is going to talk to the sheriff.

Dave would like to have a work session with the commissioners. The council also needs to set up a meeting with Reedy. Reedy wants to go over the 3rd quarter and to start on the 2025 budget.

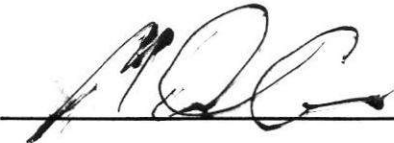
Gene made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Dave seconded the motion, passed unanimously.



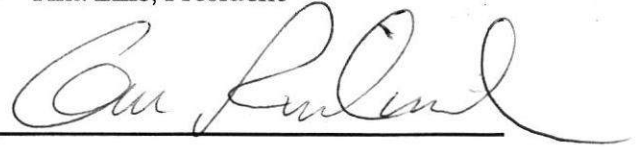
Sarah Abel, Auditor



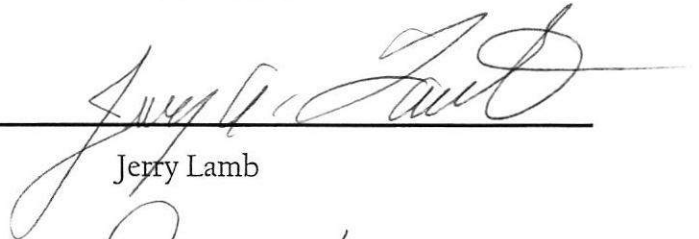
Tina Ellis, President



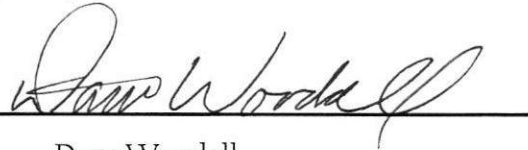
Mike Gerth, Vice President



Gene Rudicel


Howard Malcomb

Jerry Lamb


Mandy Creech

Dave Woodall