Minutes of the Daviess County Commission

January 5, 2022

The Honorable Daviess County Commission met this 5th day of January 2022 at 8:20 am. Jim Ruse, Presiding Commissioner, called the meeting to order. David Cox, 1st District Commissioner, and Wayne Uthe, 2nd District Commissioner, were present.

James Lewis, Road and Bridge Supervisor, met with the Commission to update them on ongoing projects. James is working with two MO DOT inspectors doing bridge inspections this week. His crew are replacing a fan in the mowing tractor. Discussion was held regarding the trash issue in Marion Township. The crew are continuing to mow in Liberty Township as time and weather permit. They are still accepting applications.

RaCail King, County Health Director, spoke by phone to the Commission to advise them of current Coronavirus cases in Daviess County. RaCail advised as of Wednesday morning the county numbers were, total cases 1301, 38 active, 8 hospitalized, and 22 deaths. The Health Department is still giving vaccinations and testing by appointment. RaCail requested from the Commission to use a portion of the center building at their location for an indoor testing and vaccination area during the cold weather, permission granted. She also discussed with the Commission the possibility of extra storage and a decontamination area in the far northwest corner of the building. Issue continued.

Daren Adkins, Associate Circuit Judge, met with the Commission to discuss putting carpet squares on the floor in the jury room to dampen the noise on court days. The court will be paying for the carpet and the installation. Permission granted.

Discussion was held regarding the current infectious disease exposure policy for the county. The Commission updated their policy for persons exposed to an infected person to be – an exposed employee or elected official will remain home 5 days from their first day of exposure, get a negative test (flu and/or Covid), then they can return to work if they wear a mask for the next 5 days. If they have an onset of any symptoms during this time, they will immediately notify Human Resources and remain at home until further instructions. Any symptoms without a test will require a 10-day absence. Administrative pay will be available in most cases.

Becky Simpson, Extension office, met with the Commission to introduce Manoj Chhetri as the new Horticulture specialist that is taking Tim Baker’s place. Manoj is a graduate of Kansas University and is looking forward to mowing his family here to Daviess County.

Ronetta Burton, County Clerk, presented each of the Commissioners with a new Summary document for the Final Rule for the American Rescue Plan Act funds. The Final Rule effective April 1, 2022, replaces the Interim Final Rule and has several changes to the instructions for dispersing funds. Issue continued.

Wayne Uthe made a motion to approve BRO 38 Progress Inv #9 for payment, David Cox seconded. 3-Aye, 0-No. Motion passed. Discussion was held regarding a possible next bridge that might be BR 422001.9 on Lilac Avenue in Grand River Township. A decision will be made at a later time.

Discussion was held regarding a CDBG grant that might be available for roof repairs and elevator upgrade through the Department of Economic Development. Lance Rains, Gallatin Administrator, met with the Commission and advised them on the application process, deadlines, etc.

The Commission met with Aaron Piburn, Assessor, and Larry Adams, Jr, Sheriff, to discuss their preliminary 2022 budgets. They also reviewed the 2022 budget from Tammy Huffman, Interim Public Administrator.

Seth Allen met with the Commission to pick up an application.

Meeting was adjourned 3:15 pm

Approved:

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Presiding Commissioner 1st District Commissioner 2nd District Commissioner

Attest:

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