

Hancock County Board of Commissioners
Regularly Scheduled Meeting
January 17, 2023

Commissioner President Spalding called to order the January 17, 2023, Hancock County Commissioners Board meeting at 8:02 AM. Those present were Board of Commissioners, Bill Spalding, John Jessup, Gary McDaniel, Auditor Debra Carnes, Executive Liaison Administrator Chyan Gilaspy, and County Attorney Scott Benkie.

Highway Department

County Engineer Gary Pool presented 12 Federal and 2 CCMG grant applications for signatures totaling \$5,430,000 and discussed project updates for 600W Bridge 145, Bridge 57 open, installing solar lights on Morristown Pike, roundabout at 200N/600W phased traffic/closures, 601 W Osage environmental study in soon, Pennsy on US 40, 200W interchange RFP out, CATIV awards, needing RFPs for upcoming projects, and the 2024 RDC budget.

Commissioner McDaniel motioned to apply for the CCMG and Federal Bridge grants and sign applications. Commissioner Jessup seconded. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Monroe, LLC Pennsy Trail Contractor

John Simpson, representative for Monroe, LLC discussed issues with the Pennsy Trail project and asked how to remedy the situation. Engineer Pool clarified the Form 96 Bid is a contract, Monroe, LLC is owed for work done, and provided options for moving forward. County Attorney Scott Benkie stated the contract had been breached. Pennsy Trail Board President Mary Ann Wietbrock rebutted Simpson's claims. Discussion had.

Commissioner McDaniel motioned to terminate the Form 96 contract with Monroe, LLC. Commissioner Jessup seconded. **Motion carried 3-0.** County Attorney Scott Benkie will prepare the contract termination letter.

Pennsy Trail

Board President Mary Ann Wietbrock and Board Member David Spanke presented the Riddle MOU for signatures because Council agreed to pay \$7,770 for the fence – discussion had and Exhibit A was added, 500-600W RFPs, Monroe contract termination, Town of Cumberland paying for two trail crossing signs and asked the County to pay \$13,500 for two more – discussion had, trail mowing and wanting to install a porta-let at 400W, and funding updates – discussion had. Commissioners are open to helping fund trail projects but want to learn more about the Tourism budget and funding options.

Commissioner McDaniel motioned to allow Mary Ann Wietbrock to send out RFPs for farm field access, signage, and fencing for 500W-600W. Commissioner Jessup seconded. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Commissioner McDaniel motioned to accept the Thomas Riddle MOU for donated farm property located at 240 S 350W, as presented with additional Exhibit A attached stating the fence price and County contribution of \$7,770. Commissioner Jessup seconded. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Elect Board Vice President

Commissioner Jessup motioned to elect Gary McDaniel as Commissioner Vice President. Commissioner McDaniel seconded. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Facilities Manager

Facilities Manager Cory Taylor discussed the Prosecutor's Office utility bill was high due to remediation work and getting mowing proposals. Discussion had.

*President Spalding recessed the Board of Commissioners meeting at 9:25 AM.
President Spalding reconvened the Board of Commissioners meeting at 9:31 AM.*

Claims & Payroll, Minutes

Commissioner Jessup motioned to approve claims and payroll, as presented. Commissioner McDaniel seconded. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Commissioner Jessup motioned to approve the Commissioner minutes for January 3, 2023, as presented. Commissioner McDaniel seconded. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Firehouse Alert System

Emergency Operations Director John Jokantas and Vernon Township Fire Chief Mark Elder requested funding for a new alerting system, approx. \$80K-90K, for Fire Station 431 to provide better dispatch connection and improve firefighter health. Funding sources including TIF and LIT Public Safety discussed. Commissioner President Spalding explained the County is agreeing to pay but needs to determine funding source and directed the request to the next Budget meeting.

IT Department

IT Director Bernie Harris discussed needing a policy regarding elected officials accessing emails from their predecessor and in the interim transferring Susan Bodkin's emails to the new Surveyor Chad Coughenour to access important work files. Discussion had. Also discussed was an upcoming Ninestar phone contract and Commissioner McDaniel's computer access.

Commissioner McDaniel motioned to allow IT to transfer Susan Bodkin's emails to Chad Coughenour. Commissioner Jessup seconded. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Gallahue Mental Health Center

Program Manager Tondra Crum-Worley and Regional Director of Operations Devon Jones presented the 2022 Community Behavioral Health/Gallahue Mental Health Center report, provided updates for the Mobile Crisis Center, and quarterly ARPA reports. Discussion had.

Commissioner Jessup motioned to accept the 2022 report from Gallahue Mental Health Center dated December 1, 2022. Commissioner McDaniel seconded. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Seventy Connect III Advance Request

Commissioner President Spalding explained there would be a likely be a continuance to allow Commissioner McDaniel to become acquainted with the project. Lauth representatives Brady Jacoba and Ryan Thomas discussed the project to date, Seventy Connect II advance request, and the \$473,543.25 current advance request. Auditor Carnes asked for clarification regarding any additional forgivable loans for this project. Discussion had.

Commissioner McDaniel motioned to continue the discussion with Seventy Connect to the next Commissioners meeting on January 31. Commissioner Jessup seconded. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Accept Bond

Commissioner Jessup motioned to accept the cash bond for Prairie Pointe Enterprises, LLC for the Boulders at Sugar Creek Section 2 storm drainage in the amount of \$15,000. Commissioner McDaniel seconded. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Certificate of Appointment

Commissioner Jessup motioned to reappoint Dr. Scott Capen to the Board of Health with a term ending December 31, 2026. Commissioner McDaniel seconded. **Motion carried 3-0.**
Commissioner President Spalding signed the Certificate of Appointment form.

Annual Certification of Elected Officials

Commissioners signed their individual certifications and decided to wait until all other certifications were submitted to sign the Board of Commissioners certification.

DLZ Update

DLZ representative Phillip Wink provided updates for the emergency repairs at the old jail and Community Corrections buildings. Executive Director of Community Corrections Wade Kennedy discussed their office move. Commissioner President Spalding thanked Commissioner Jessup for his work on the Prosecutor’s Office emergency. Public Defender Jeremy Teipen asked about their current lease and construction timeline. Discussion had. DLZ will wait to do walk-throughs until a CMA is named.

Commissioner McDaniel motioned to have Hancock County put out a Request for Proposals for a Construction Manager as Advisor for the old jail and Community Corrections remodels. Commissioner Jessup seconded. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Board Appointments Cont.

Commissioner McDaniel motioned to appoint Bob Chandler to the Alcoholic Beverage Commission. Commissioner Jessup seconded. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Commissioner Jessup motioned to reappoint Johnathan Albright to the Public Defender Board, with a term ending December 31, 2025. Commissioner McDaniel seconded. **Motion carried 3-0.**

January 31, 2023, Board of Commissioners Meeting

Commissioner McDaniel motioned to have the January 31, 2023, meeting at 5:00 PM and have the Auditor advertise the meeting. Commissioner Jessup seconded. **Motion carried 3-0.**

The Hancock County Board of Commissioners meeting adjourned at 10:43 AM.

Commissioner Bill Spalding, President

Commissioner Gary McDaniel, Vice-President

Commissioner John Jessup

Attest: _____
Debra Carnes, Hancock County Auditor