

Greene County Commission Briefing,
April 5, 2018, 9:30 a.m.
Greene County Commission Office
1443 N. Robberson

Present: Royce Denney, Jim Arnott, Franz Williams, Jeff Scott, Bob Cirtin, Cindy Stein, Jess Kerr, Kate Morris, Harold Bengsch, Lincoln Hough, Chris Coulter, Tina Phillips, and Kevin Barnes.

Commissioner Cirtin opened the meeting and called on the first agenda item, the jail tower elevator project. Franz Williams explained to the Commission that the project will still cost \$194,000, but an additional \$15,000 would be needed to keep the jail tower elevators operating. These two elevators serve the 1st, 2nd, 4th, and 5th floors for food delivery. Williams asked the Commission to approve a new total of about \$210,000. He said that the main project to repair the elevators would not be started until September. In the meantime, the pumps on the elevators must be done immediately, which is where the additional cost comes in. Commissioner Hough made a motion to spend the additional \$15,000 to fix the elevator pumps. Commissioner Bengsch seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Aye: Bengsch, Cirtin, Hough Nay: None Absent: None Abstain: None

Jess Kerr presented the next request, which was to fill a budgeted position early. Kerr told the Commission that one of his employees was in the hospital with a very serious condition, which meant there was only one of two JAVA programmers available to work. The department had a new position budgeted to open in July, and Kerr wanted to fill it immediately instead. In filling it early, it would cost about \$10,000 more, and that money would be used out of the department's budget. Commissioner Hough made the motion to approve the immediate filling of the budgeted position. Commissioner Bengsch seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Aye: Bengsch, Cirtin, Hough Nay: None Absent: None Abstain: None

Two reappointments to the Historic Sites Board were presented. Commissioner Cirtin made the motion to reappoint Linda Bridges and Mark Thompson to serve second terms, which would end in 2021. Commissioner Hough seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Aye: Bengsch, Cirtin, Hough Nay: None Absent: None Abstain: None

The last action item on the agenda was the jail transition team. (Document provided: "Exhibit 1") Jeff Scott explained that the cost of the four-person team was not included in the half-cent sales tax resolution or the salary restructuring process. He said it should be included as an expense out of construction costs, as it is a needed item but an offset of savings would need to occur. Commissioner Hough inquired as to why four people would be needed. Sheriff Arnott explained that the last project had six people, so the number has been paired down, and that those four positions would be backfilled. Citing a cost of approximately

\$1 million, Commissioner Hough asked the Sheriff to explain why they'd need four people – roughly 160 work hours per week – to go over plans in addition to the efforts made by both the national and local firms that the county has hired for this project. Sheriff Arnott, Major Denney, Kevin Barnes, and Chris Coulter all agreed that the amount of people and time was necessary for this project. Barnes explained that the transition team would be a critical piece that advises in such a way that it would likely end up in avoiding additional expenses in the future. Commissioner Hough asked why it was necessary to hire all four people before a contract was in place with an architect and before a construction manager at risk was on the ground. Kevin Barnes asked if it was necessary to hire the four people and backfill their positions. Sheriff Arnott said he would like to have a date slated to backfill the positions and they would need to be arranged to start as soon as the CMAR is on the ground. Jeff Scott reminded that there are not extra positions for the Sheriff in this year's budget, and the four positions must be fully allocated to construction funds. Sheriff Arnott stated that the team would need to be named but agreed that they do not need to start their new positions until the CMAR has begun.

Commissioner Cirtin made the motion to approve the Sheriff's proposal (Exhibit 1) and opened the floor for discussion. Jeff Scott pointed out some parts the document that conflicted with the general agreement being presented during this meeting. Commissioner Bengsch stated that the Sheriff needs to be given leeway to name the four people on the transition team so preparations may take place to backfill those positions. He suggested the motion be amended to approve that the Sheriff be able to name the four members of the transition team, with the understanding that they would not start their work on the team until a CMAR was on the ground. Sheriff Arnott agreed to the amended motion. Commissioner Hough said he still took issue with allotting 160 hours per week on the project, saying that since we already have an operating jail, there's no need to reinvent the wheel. Sheriff Arnott explained that the model would need to be changed to a combination of indirect and direct supervision, which calls for a large amount of time and effort writing new policy and procedures. Commissioner Cirtin stated that it was not the Commission's job to micromanage the project, because the Commissioners aren't experts on how to plan and design a jail. He said he had no problem questioning expenses or hours, but felt that those questions had been answered, and Kevin Barnes, Chris Coulter, and other staff supported the Sheriff's request. He noted that a motion was on the floor. Royce Denney, Kevin Barnes, and Chris Coulter all again stated that they agreed that the four person team was needed. Jess Kerr asked that one of those four people have a focus on technology. Major Denney stated that one person would be focused on technology.

Commissioner Cirtin amended his motion to state that a four-person transition team for the jail project could be named immediately in order to prepare for backfilling their current positions, and they would start working as the transition team once a construction manager at risk is on the ground. Commissioner Bengsch seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Aye: Bengsch, Cirtin, Hough Nay: None Absent: None Abstain: None

Jeff Scott gave a sales tax update ("Exhibit 2"). He said sales tax is continuing to grow at an increasing rate. Chris Coulter reminded the Commission that the Harold K. Bengsch Award would be given to Steve Edwards later that day. Coulter said meetings are still taking place with the City and Health department to develop an animal control program. Also, attorneys working on opioid litigation are looking to file in May, he said. Additionally, the county recently received an offer on Jamestown property and staff is working on a counter proposal, which is standard procedure. Meeting adjourned.