

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MINUTES

Meeting Date: October 25, 2023, 6 p.m., Community Center

Present: Bubba Gregory, Chris Gregory, Richard Johnson, Alan Carman, Lesley Overman, Landon Gulley, County Mayor Jack McCall, Public Works Director Cliff Sallee

Others Present: Public Works staff Kerri Garner, Amy Thomas, County Attorney Branden Bellar, two unidentified members of Public Works staff

Chairman Bubba Gregory called the meeting to order and welcomed Lesley Overman as new member of the committee.

Minutes of the September 21, 2023 meeting were reviewed. Motion to approve by Gulley, second by C.Gregory. Motion approved.

Election of officers was held. Motion by C.Gregory to leave current officers in place (B.Gregory chair, Lonnie Taylor vice chair, C.Gregory secretary), second by Gulley. Motion approved.

Discussion held on park projects. Cliff Sallee noted that Public Works staff has been in park over last few weeks. Auction of old playground equipment went well and Sallee provided committee list of what sold and for how much. List did not deduct \$475 in advertising cost, total net from auction was \$3956.50. Contracting company removing old equipment would have cost thousands. Most took cement, but few big pieces still in place - Public Works staff is removing to Convenience Center. New equipment waiting on TDEC approval on couple of points to get started. New stuff will get into camera and lighting wires that will need moving, that is not included in quote. Sallee noted play area will be smaller than old one, estimates about one-third the size. Lighting will only cover about one-third of the park. Cameras working well, some wires have been buried almost 10 years and new wires will eventually need to be run.

C.Gregory asked to verify size of new play area about one-third of old, Sallee confirmed.

B.Gregory asked about Fall Festival on Oct. 14. Mayor McCall said there was large crowd, some scheduled entertainment didn't show up but everyone seemed to have good time.

Discussion turned to Solid Waste. New front loader arrived Oct. 17 but without title or registration, so still sitting idle. Temporary tag arrived Oct. 25 so planning to start using soon. New pickup has also arrived. Next truck to look at will be automated door-to-door truck (estimated lifespan 6-7 years, county's is 10 years old). Sallee hopes to get another year out of it. Gulley asked about rolloff truck that is on order, Sallee said no update. Company had told us 2-year backlog but hoping to get sooner. Gulley asked about getting title/registration on new front loader. Sallee said company wants payment before releasing. Amy Thomas said purchase order has been issued, Mayor McCall said he didn't think check had been signed yet. Kerri Garner said the check should go out sometime this present week.

Discussion turned to school tipping fees. Sallee said Garner had noticed that school's tipping fees didn't change despite an increase in pickups by county. Sallee's predecessor is believed to have verbal deal with schools to pay \$35K in tipping fees per year regardless of actual cost. Carman asked if PW is now sending full bills. Sallee said PW is sending full bills and they are being paid but noted schools have quit paying in past when budgeted funds ran out, so PW will need to monitor this. Gulley asked when school budgeted funds have been depleted in past, Sallee did not have available. Garner estimates county is losing roughly \$800 to \$1000 per month. C.Gregory asked if anyone else has a similar deal, Sallee said

no. Garner estimated prorated bills in past have been roughly \$2,817 per month, school total payments have been \$35,000 per year for 2-3 years.

Discussion turned to Community Center. B.Gregory noted that there is now Building Committee to address this but that Public Works had started conversation. County Attorney Bellar said the mayor needs guidance from committee(s). Mayor McCall said Youth Football has asked about using building for two hours and waiving fees, but mayor doesn't want to waive fees for anyone. He believes Red Cross can get sponsors for blood drives and that would be simplest solution for them. Overman asked if fees are still \$100 rental plus \$100 deposit, they are per mayor. Bellar said Smith County rental fee is \$200 per day with no deposit. Gulley asked if other groups regularly use, mayor noted FCA for after home football games. C.Gregory said Rotary has used building in past with fees waived, but not under current administration. Overman suggested we figure out what it costs county in utilities to use building and charge that, saying we should not be making money off our citizens. Sallee noted that PW staff has to fix any damage to building.

Gulley motioned to recommend leaving fees as is but not allowing waiving of fees, motion died for lack of second.

Overman suggested committee see costs for utilities at Center then reassess. C.Gregory asked if rental fees can be placed in particular line item for needed repairs to building. Amy Thomas said this could be done if full Commission wishes. Bellar said precedent is set for mayor to be able to waive but recommends this be removed.

Motion by Gulley to not allow mayor to waive fees any longer, second by Overman. In discussion, C.Gregory asked if committee can limit the mayor like that, Bellar said would be recommendation only. Motion approved with C.Gregory voting no.

C.Gregory asked if school traffic lights mentioned in September meeting have been fixed. They have, per Sallee.

B.Gregory asked about courthouse update with Trane. Bellar said meeting had been rescheduled to this week with electrical inspector, no word from county building office on date yet. Bellar will have to wait for electrical inspection report to see what next steps need to be. Sallee said building failed electrical inspection, subcontractor was apparently unaware of a number of items required by contract. Sallee said staff has noted some things that need to be done, some have been done and some not. He was unsure what all was still needed to be done. C.Gregory asked if another inspection has been scheduled, not as of yet.

No date set for next meeting, will be scheduled when needed. B.Gregory noted committee will likely need to start 2024 pool preparations in December or January. Motion to adjourn by Gulley, second by Johnson. Motion approved.

Minutes presented by Chris Gregory.