

**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
COUNTY BOARDROOM
SPECIAL MEETING
TUESDAY, APRIL 19, 2022
MINUTES
6:00 PM**

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6PM by Chairman Burditt.

2. Roll Call

Ansel Burditt, Blake Parsons, Justin Faulk all present. Al Durst is excused. Donald Tolan is absent.

3. Public Input

None

4. New Business

None

5. Unfinished Business

a. Animal Control – Discussion/action on fuel surcharge

A draft of a report sheet was handed out. This sheet will allow the committee to collect data on the types of calls that Mr. Abney is handling. The mileage issue was discussed. The Animal Control contract that was negotiated with Mr. Abney does not pay mileage. Discussion on whether or not to open up contract negotiations with Mr. Abney to address the shortcomings we are facing - open negotiations now, what a few months to see what data is reported, or wait till the contract is up, and do we address fuel charges. It was brought up that Section 12 of the Animal Control Ordinance states that boarding fees are charged, but the Ordinance doesn't state what those boarding fees are. Could the boarding fees be increased to help cover the fuel costs? It was pointed out that the contract with Mr. Abney sets the boarding fees at \$10 a day. Question on how fees paid to Mr. Abney were handled. The Treasurer went over how fees are distributed. Mr. Abney turns in a ticket with the amount for fines, and storage fees. The boarding fees are deposited and a receipt is ran through the accounting system. When Mr. Abney turns in his pay request, he included the amount of boarding fees for that month. The two charges that were obtained for fuel, also were run through our accounting system. This is a new contract and we are becoming aware of the shortcomings that need to be addressed. Discussion on how to handle these shortcomings. It was stated that Mr. Abney bid this contract. The Assistant State's Attorney sees issues with renegotiating a contract in a middle of the contract. This would set a precedence that the County is willing to negotiate any contract in the middle of a contract, and that any vendor who has a contract with the County can all of a sudden ask to have their contract renegotiated for a higher price. Mr. Abney's contract is the same contract that we had with Ms. Leman. It was stated that the County had never kept track of what Ms. Leman did, and when we bid this job, we didn't have any idea what all it entailed. Now that we are keeping track of it, we have a better understanding of what all is involved. It was pointed out that this is not accurate. The call numbers that came through dispatch were discussed with Mr. Abney before he took the job and this contract reflects his bid. Mr. Abney is a

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contractual employee and the time to renegotiate his contract is when it is up. It is not the County's fault that Mr. Abney underbid his contract. Three years ago we were paying Ms. Leman \$70,000. Now three year later, we are still paying \$70,000. Everything goes up. The Committee does not argue that Mr. Abney is having a hardship with the increase in fuel prices and the miles he is traveling. As an independent contractor, we do not specify how his payment is used. We hired Animal Control as an independent contractor who is to cover all expenses incurred in the job. At this time the consensus from the committee is to do nothing. Mr. Gibson will relate this to Mr. Abney. The \$20 that was collected for fuel will be reimbursed to those two citizens as an overcharge. Mr. Burditt will make a motion at the Board meeting to amend the claim to Mr. Abney to be \$20 less.

b. Sheriff – Discussion /action on retaining wall replacement

The Sheriff had been waiting on two additional bids – from Knapp and Hoffman. However, those two companies did not bid. The Sheriff only received one bid. Motion to accept the bid by New Horizon to replace the retaining wall for \$34,714.50 made by Parsons, seconded by Faulk. *Motion passed.*


6. Other

7. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn made by Parsons, seconded by Faulk. *Motion passed.*

Meeting adjourned at 6:18 P.M.

Submitted by: Deb Breyman



Ansel Burditt, Chairman
Public Safety Committee