

Minutes

PRESENT: Commissioner Harvell, Commissioner Carlton, Commissioner Brann

The meeting was held via: Zoom

Franklin County Commissioners Meeting

August 20, 2024

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Harvell at 10:01 a.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Audience (Present): David Rackliffe, Christopher Davis, William Davis, Jim Desjardins, Jake Nichols, Nathan Hiltz, Robert Lightbody, Susan Pratt, Adam Catrell, Raymond Plog, Naomi Henderson, Tom Saviello, Fenwick Fowler, Donna Perry, Mt. Blue T.V., Amy Bernard, Tiffany Baker, Jamie Sullivan, and Brenda Bittle.

Audience (Zoom): Sarah Bickford, Jessica Brown, Brad Timberlake, and Fenwick Fowler.

APPOINTMENTS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Clerk's Report - Motion to accept the Clerk's Report: Bob/Terry (3/0)**
2. **Treasurer's Report – Motion to accept the Treasurer Report: Terry/Bob (3/0)**
3. **Davis Abatement** – William Davis discussed with the Commissioners his unhappiness with the Town of Industry taxing a portion of his property that is considered to be a family burial ground/cemetery. Mr. Davis indicated that the State recognized the 160x100 parcel to be a cemetery. In 2005, the Town of Industry taxed the property, and continues to do so. Commissioner Harvell stated that the State of Maine amended the law to state that in order to be tax exempt cemetery there had to be an actual body buried on the premises. To this date, there is no body buried in the Davis family burial ground, therefore it is not tax exempt. **No Action Taken.**
4. **Plog – River Stabilization** – Raymond Plog, who owns property along the Sandy River in Madrid is dangerously close to losing a shed and possibly his home due to the erosion that has occurred from the two damaging floods last year. He is requesting the Commissioners assist him with applying for a USDA - Natural Resources Conservation Service grant for emergency funds to stabilize the bank of the Sandy River. The grant requires a sponsor for the project. The sponsor is responsible for a 25% match, which the County can require the homeowner pay, along with hiring the contractor for the project, obtaining permits, and provide maintenance for the project for a period of 25 years. Adam Catrell, from the USDA gave a ballpark figure for the project of \$175,000. Amy Bernard encouraged Mr. Plog to apply for a Title grant to pay for the 25% matching portion of the project. A letter of intent is required to be signed by the Commissioners in order to get the ball rolling. **Motion to authorize Chair to sign the letter of intent to the approve the Natural Resources Conservation Service: Bob/Lance (2/1).**

5. **Snow Contracts - Sign** – The Snow Contract for the County Parking lots awarded to E.L. Vining & Son and the Snow Contract for West Freeman Township awarded to Fenwick Construction, LLC have been completed are ready to be executed by all parties. **Motion to sign the County Parking lots Snow Contract to E.L. Vining & Son and West Freeman Township Snow Contract to Fenwick Construction, LLC: Bob/Terry (3/0).**
- TIF Projects** – The TIF Committee reviewed and made recommendations on the eight scholarship applications that were received. The TIF Committee approved seven applications in the amount of \$125,537 and denied Samuel Cockerham’s request due to his family’s ability to pay. Amy indicated that Sam’s sister received TIF funding four years ago so the family believed that he would receive funding as well. **Motion to fund all recommended requests from the TIF Committee and award \$10,000 to Samuel Cockerham: Bob (No Vote) Amended Motion to award funds to the seven applicants recommended by the TIF Committee in the amount of \$125,537: Bob/Terry (3/0).**
- Motion to award Samuel Cockerham \$12,500: Bob/Lance (2/1) Terry opposed.**

TIF Funds were awarded to: Hayden Durrell \$13,976, Madison Phelps \$19,688, Karsyn Rolbieki \$16,195, Brooke Douglass \$17,736, Anna Plog \$13,308, Wyatt Sieminski \$23,160, Payton Mitchell \$21,474, and Samuel Cockerham \$12,500.

OLD BUSINESS:

None


MISCELLANEOUS:


1. **Next Commissioners Meeting will be held on September 3, 2024 at 3:30 p.m.**


WARRANTS: AP, ARPA, TIF, UT, and Payroll – Motion to sign Warrants: Terry/Bob (3/0)

ADJOURNMENT: Motion to adjourn at 11:17 a.m. Bob/Terry (3/0)

A recording is available for this meeting.







FRANKLIN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

ATTEST: , CLERK