

Norton Co Board of Commissioners

January 22, 2024

Convene

Commissioner Garrett Beydler called the meeting of the Norton Co Board of Commissioners to order at 9:00 AM on January 22, 2024 at the Commission Room. Attendance: Richard Thompson, Present; Garrett Beydler, Present; Marvin Matchett, Present.

EMS

Craig Sowards, Norton County EMS director delivered his report to the commission. Craig spoke about some budget concerns and being able to stay within the personnel line item. Craig stated he is working on avenues to reduce staff cost and increase revenues.

Discussion was held on class cost for paramedic and EMT students. Craig asked the commission if the county could assist in helping pay for any or part of the fees for the students. After discussion the commission stated that if the student commits to the first year then the county would assume payment for half of the second year fee.

Craig presented CBK account write-offs for the department. CBK collection agency has submitted 14 accounts that are not collectible for various reasons. A motion was made by Commissioner Matchett to approve the accounts submitted in the amount of \$18,355.05 with a second from Commissioner Thompson. Motion passed 3-0.

Craig spoke with the commission about ambulance unit replacement. At this time it is 2 to 3 years wait period to order and receive an new unit. Craig said the EMS unit that is currently not being used that the county could remount the box which is good and save several dollars. This option will be looked into.

Midicare allowed charges were discussed. Medicare has recently changed their allowable cost allowance on BLS, ALS and mileage. A motion was made by Commissioner Thompson to increase the Norton County EMS billable rates to reflect the Medicare approved allowance with a second from Commissioner Matchett. Motion passed 3-0.

Solid Waste

Ted White, Norton County Solid Waste reported department operations. Pricing for the remained of the fencing required, approximately 4,200 was presented. Ted stated that the estimate for fencing will be \$11,843.76. This estimate did not include the labor cost which will be completed by county employees. Chairman Beydler made a motion to approve Ted to purchase the supplies needed for the fencing with a second from Commissioner Thompson. Motion passed 3-0.

Ted delivered to the commission a battery collection report. Ted stated that they continue to find batteries that are not property disposed of. Batteries that are mixed with trash are a liability and danger to the Solid Waste site and residents are encouraged to keep batteries out of the trash. Ted reported that he has been notified that HHW rates will be going up. If the rate continues to increase the County may be forced to increase the fee for disposal.

US Hwy 36

The commission reviewed a request from US Highway 36 for membership. After reviewing the options of membership Commissioner Matchett made a motion for the county to join at the Gold Sponson level of \$200.00. The motion was given a second by Commissioner Thompson. Motion passed 3-0.

Land Lease

Land lease agreements with area farmers/land owners was presented to the commission for approval. The leases are necessary for the county to park motor graders, pickups or mower tractors on private property. The leases were signed and will be forwarded to the land owners.

Annual Rescue Truck Report

The annual rescue truck report was reviewed as submitted by the City of Norton, The report documents that run cost was \$2,430.00; administrative fees at \$8,503.20 and wage expense of \$10,933.20. Other expense totaled \$9,260.87 making the annual total \$20,194.07. Norton County annual requirement is \$10,000.00.

Road Department

Terry Laughlin, Norton County Road department spoke with the commission on several topics. Motor graders and warranty were discussed. Norton County has 4 motor graders that do not have a warranty at this time and purchasing an extended warranty was discussed. The commission agreed that extending the warranty at this time was not necessary.

Terry discussed recent snow removal and how priority is given. Terry stated any road that has residential is priority, then livestock, oil roads and bus routes. Roads will be opened as needed for residents or farmers that call in with needed openings.

Terry provided the commission with a request to purchase a plasma cutter for the department. The information and need for the cutter was discussed. No decision was made at this time.

Register of Deeds

Wanda Vincent, Norton County Register of Deeds delivered the annual report. For the year, Wanda reported that 359 deeds were recorded; 158 mortgages were filed; and 496 other documents for a total of 1,013 recorded documents. Total fees for the filings was \$43,074.00. A total of 28 UCC's were filed for \$375.00.

Economic Development

Dallas Gosselin, Norton County/City Economic Development spoke with the commission on topics for the 2024 Legislative Day. Those topics included but not limited to were healthcare; local government; economic development; KDOT; and KDOC. Dallas also asked the commission for input on topics they would like to discuss at the Legislative Day.

Dallas spoke about the USDA Revolving Loan Fund application he has been working on. The establishment of the fund would be beneficial to area businesses. Dallas requested from the commission approval to submitted the application. The commission approved the request.

Tax Abatements

Two tax abatements were submitted to the commission for approval and signature. Tax abatement #2024000019 was submitted for property that was sold and failure to report. Total amount abated was \$57.98. The second abatement was #2024000011 was for business inventory and the business sold during the year with equipment liquidated. The abatement was \$122.44. Both tax abatements were approved and signed.

January 16th, 2024 minutes

A motion was made by Commissioner Matchett to approve the January 16th, 2024 minutes with a second from Commissioner Thompson. Motion passed 3-0.

Adjournment

There being no further business before the Board the meeting was adjourned until 1/31/2024. The commission minutes are not considered to be official until signed and approved by the commission and will remain a working document until approved.