

# **Newberry County Council Public Safety and Courts Committee**

**January 13, 2014**

The regular quarterly meeting for the Newberry County Council Public Safety and Courts Committee was held on January 13, 2014 6:00 p.m. in the Courthouse Annex Conference Room.

**PRESENT:** Bill Waldrop, Chairman  
Kirksey Koon, Councilman

**ABSENT:** John Caldwell, Councilman

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Louis Neiger, Chris Johnson, Tommy Long, Art Jayroe, Lee Foster, Jackie Bowers, Gordon Johnson, Ron Halfacre, Ervin West, Laurie Renwick, Wayne Adams, Scott Cain

**MEDIA:** None Present

## **1. Call to Order and Invocation**

Wayne Adams, County Administrator, called the meeting to order followed by invocation.

## **2. Election of Chairman for 2014 - Wayne Adams, County Administrator**

Councilman Koon nominated Councilman Bill Waldrop as Chairman. The nomination passed with all in favor.

## **3. Public Comments (Agenda Item #10 moved up)**

Mr. Lou Neiger requested that an ordinance be considered to ban texting while driving and ban the use of cell phones except for blue tooth or hands free devices.

Mr. Adams asked if this would be difficult for law enforcement to enforce.

Sheriff Foster stated it would be no more difficult than enforcing the seat belt law. He shared his concerns about the citizens of Newberry and people from out of town being aware of the ordinance. He said signs may have to be posted throughout the county stating Newberry County has an ordinance for no cell phone\text messaging while driving.

The committee took this as information only.

**4. Approval of October 21, 2013 Minutes**

The minutes of October 21, 2013, were approved with all in favor.

**5. Discussion of Bailiff's Budget - Art Jayroe, Chief Magistrate**

Judge Jayroe stated that their vacant full time position will be split between two (2) part-time bailiffs and there will be a \$7,000.00 shortfall.

Mr. Adams stated that staff will handle this as a variance in this year's budget.

**6. Discussion of Station Constables' Liability Insurance - Sheriff Lee Foster**

Sheriff Foster stated that the constables' workers compensation is covered through SLED but their TORTE liability is not. He advised the committee that they will suspend the constable program at the Sheriff's Office until they can get more information on how to cover the TORTE liability. He said they will include five (5) constables for \$700.00 in next year's budget.

The committee took this as information only.

**7. Update on New Sheriff's Office Building - Sheriff Lee Foster**

Sheriff Foster reported that they are still meeting every Tuesday to go over the progress of the building. He stated that they have had delays with city utilities, problems getting a crane to lift the tower, and the weather has slowed down the work on the Communications/EOC building. He also stated the parking lot has to be repaved, new blinds and additional furniture is needed, landscaping, and kitchenette furniture and fencing but these items are not included in the budget.

Mr. Adams stated that staff needed to draft an amendment and bring this information before County Council at the first meeting in February with the committee's recommendation that funding be available to purchase these items not currently budgeted.

**8. Briefing on Volunteer Fire Assistance Grants - Tommy Long, Emergency Services Coordinator**

Mr. Long reported on two (2) grants awarded for our fire departments. He said the match money will come from his budget so no extra funding will be needed.

- 50/50 VFA Grant for equipment and supplies awarded to Bush River Fire Department in the amount of \$1,950.00
- 50/50 VFA Grant for equipment and supplies awarded to Little Mountain Fire Department in the amount of \$1,500.00

**9. Update on Courthouse Repairs - Ervin West, Carter Goble Lee**

Mr. West reported that the roof work is complete and it has a 20 year warranty. Next, they will start on the interior water damage removal that was caused by the leaking roof. Removal will include removing the drywall, ceiling, and carpet damaged areas. This has been bid on and will be on the agenda for County Councils approval. He said the record book cleaning will be the next project. A Request for Proposal is already out and they are look for a company that has experience and qualifications.

Mr. Adams commented that Mrs. Bowers, Mrs. Waldrop, and Mr. West will pick the company they think is best qualified and then the recommendation can go before County Council.

Mr. West said the exterior wall waterproofing on the Courthouse will be the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase. A Request for Qualifications has been issued and received for the area way and they hope to choose an engineer in the near future.

He said the temporary storage suite at Newberry Square is underway. This location will handle the files and books that have to be relocated during the work phase at the Courthouse. This project has been bid and the work is being done.

Mr. Adams stated that Councilmen Hipp had inquired about a different type fire suppression system other than a wet system.

Mr. West responded that he priced a FM200 dry system and instead of water it uses a type of dry fog and the cost would be \$70,000.00 for a 1,500 square foot area.

Chairman Waldrop responded that they need the simplest solution and he did not see spending a large amount of money on such a small area.

**10. Other Items**

No other items.

**11. Adjournment**

Chairman Waldrop adjourned the meeting at 6:50 p.m.

**Public Safety and Courts Committee**

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**Bill Waldrop, Chairman**

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**Zenda McClurkin, Recorder**

**Approved:**