

The Board of County Commissioners met in regular session at 9:00 a.m. with all members and the County Clerk present. Ulysses News Reporter, Lara Tusten was in attendance. Commissioner Stewart led the Pledge of Allegiance and Pastor Borthwick provided prayer.

Christopher Burdette, Noxious Weed Director, presented the Annual State Noxious Weed Report, which was reviewed and approved.

Pastor Borthwick announced National Day of Prayer will be Thursday, May 3 and asked permission to pray on the steps of two county facilities – Courthouse 7:00 a.m. and Senior Center at noon. The commissioners gave their approval and thanked Pastor Borthwick for his continued support.

Kevin Shapland made the motion to approve the minutes of the April 3, 2018 meeting along with the claims against the various funds of the county, payroll total \$138,345.32 dated April 11; voucher numbers ending 155771 totaling \$341,368.77. Martin Long seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Paul Fort, EMS Director, discussed a new ambulance. Barbara Groomer, Paramedic, attended this portion of the meeting. The EMS Director had not received one of the bids he requested from a vendor and requested waiting to open bids. Commissioner Long requested an update on grant requests. The grant for new gurneys was declined due to a lack of funds; the Hospital Auxiliary approved a grant for an AutoPulse Resuscitation System.

Mari Honstead, Civic Center Manager, relayed the Ulysses Odyssey of the Mind sponsor called and asked if the old burgundy curtains from the Auditorium could be donated to them since Grant County was purchasing new ones. Martin Long made the motion to donate the old curtains to Ulysses Odyssey of the Mind Program. Kevin Shapland seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. Next, a micro rain sprinkler at the Civic Center needs repair. Kevin Shapland made the motion to purchase from Teeter Irrigation a booster pump and all repair supplies at a cost not to exceed \$1,583.75, and for this expense to be paid from the Special Equipment fund. Martin Long seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

John Crosby, Fire Chief, met with commissioners. Jessica Akers, County Attorney; Fire Department personnel, Terry Crosby, Safety Officer; Christopher Talmadge, Captain; Christopher Kincaid, Captain; Chris Warner, Lieutenant; and Colby Leonard, Chief Engineer; Ambulance Department, Paul Fort, EMS Director; Barbara Groomer, Paramedic; and Mari Honstead, Civic Center Manager, attended this portion of the meeting. Commissioner Stewart reiterated commissioners' previous commitment to build a fire station but were struggling with paying for it. Commissioners are wanting to focus on essential services and still preserve the current mill levy rate. It was the plan to spend some of the proceeds from the sale of the care home to build or renovate a building for the new fire station. The Fire Chief explained the concerns he and the firefighters had over the commissioner comments in the newspaper and asked permission to respond to those comments. Commissioners welcomed any comments

from the Fire Chief or any of the firefighters. The group discussed the article and agreed to move forward and explore all possibilities for a new fire station. It was agreed both parties would be present for discussions on feasibilities. Commissioner Long apologized for his lack of sensitivity but also expressed his concerns with declining valuation in Grant County and cost to build a 14,280 square foot new fire station. Commissioners unanimously agreed they would like to explore an existing building with renovations before moving forward on a new station. Martin Long made the motion to recess into executive session with the Fire Chief and the EMS Director for 15 minutes to discuss existing buildings under the justification of preliminary discussions relating to acquisition of real property. Kevin Shapland seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. After 15 minutes the meeting continued in open session. Commissioners set a special session for April 24, 2018 to further discuss real property.


Commissioners discussed a request by Daris Wiebe to use the Grant County logo on his candidate website. It was the unanimous decision of commissioners Mr. Wiebe should pull the Grant County Logo off his personal candidate website.

Kevin Shapland made the motion to adopt Resolution 18-03 and Contract for Services, a Resolution authorizing, approving and directing the employment of certain law firms for representation in potential litigation against contributors of opioid addiction crisis. Martin Long seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Charles Hacker, citizen, met with commissioners and requested an executive session. Martin Long made the motion to recess into executive session with Charles Hacker for 20 minutes to discuss an appointed county employee under the justification of personnel matters of non-elected personnel. Kevin Shapland seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. After 20 minutes the meeting continued in open session with no action taken.

Commissioners recessed at noon for lunch with the City of Ulysses Officials at Bob Wilson Memorial Grant County Hospital. Those attending from the city were: Mayor, John Battin; Council Members, Kenneth Warner, and Jerry Jo Deckert; Interim City Administrator/Police Chief, Alan Olson; and City Clerk Sarah Britton.

Commissioners adjourned at 1:40 p.m., to meet again in special session at 11:00 a.m. on April 24, 2018.

  
Sheila Brown, County Clerk



  
Janet Stewart, Chairman