

August 24, 2009

The Board of Brown County Commissioners met in regular session with the following members present: Warren Ploeger, Steve Roberts and Keith Olsen. Also present were County Clerk Debbie Parker and Deputy County Clerk Marla Hathhorn. Warren Ploeger opened the meeting at 8:00 a.m.

MAPLE HEIGHTS

Commissioner Steve Roberts received a request from Maple Heights Administrator Denise Wolney to bury demolition burn waste from an old home on East Iowa near the entrance to Maple Heights.

Motion by Steve Roberts to allow the demolition burn waste to be buried at that location. Seconded by Warren Ploeger. Motion carried.

SHERIFF

Brown County Sheriff John Merchant reported there are 26 inmates currently in the Brown County Jail. Merchant reported on a vehicle accident/fire which caused damage to a bridge culvert.

EMERGENCY PREPARDNESS

Jennifer Ploeger, Emergency Management, invited the Commissioners and Road Foremen to an Emergency Management training exercise program on September 16, at the Fisher Center, from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Other emergency personnel are also invited.

KCAMP SAFETY MEETINGS

County Clerk Debbie Parker reported that there will be a KWORCC safety meeting for the Road Department employees on September 15 at 7:30 a.m. in the Commissioners Room at the Courthouse. The Commissioners are also invited to this meeting. There will also be two KWORCC safety meetings for the Courthouse employees on that same day.

MINUTES

Motion by Steve Roberts to approve the August 17, 2009 minutes. Seconded by Keith Olsen. Motion carried.

TAX CHANGE ORDERS

Tax change orders # 08-138 and #08-139 were approved and signed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion by Warren Ploeger for a 20 minute Executive Session on confidential data with the three Commissioners and County Clerk Debbie Parker present. Seconded by Keith Olsen. Motion carried. Closed 8:25 a.m. Opened 8:43 a.m. No binding action was taken.

Hiawatha World Newspaper Editor Ike Larson questioned the legalities of holding an Executive Session on confidential data and whether anything else was discussed in the Executive Session. County Clerk Debbie Parker assured the press that the reason for the Executive Session was legal and nothing else except the stated issue is ever discussed in an Executive Session.

2010 BUDGET HEARING

Jim Scherer, CPA, was present for the 2010 Brown County Budget Hearing. Jim Scherer stated that at this point the budget can still be reduced but it may not be increased without starting over with the legal publications. The assessed valuation for Brown County has increased this year.

Scherer explained the transfer of funds in response to a question from Brown County resident Bill Pollock. Pollock also questioned the amount in the Commissioners fund for 2010, whether monies are carried over from year to year, and how much money Brown County has invested in CDs. Pollock had numerous other questions which were all answered by the Commissioners, County Clerk and Jim Scherer. Pollock would like to see taxes lowered every year to attract businesses.

In regards to the cutting of funds to the RDA (Rural Development Association), RDA Board President David Key read a letter expressing disappointment in RDA not receiving funding for the 2010 fund year. Eight of the RDA board members were present. Key stated that RDA has a grant writer on staff.

Commissioner Roberts explained that the Commissioners wanted to try another avenue in attracting businesses to Brown County. The Commissioners felt that financially helping the Hiawatha, Horton and Sabetha Economic Development organizations would help in adding businesses to Brown County, with agreements those three cities would help the third class cities with grant writing.

Commissioner Ploeger stated he was disappointed that nothing had been heard from the Cities of Sabetha and Horton in regards to the monies for 2010. Ploeger would like to hear what will be done with the 2010 monies before the funding will be allocated again.

Motion by Warren Ploeger to approve the 2010 Brown County Budget. Seconded by Steve Roberts. Motion carried.

RDA

Nancy Gafford, RDA, presented the semi-annual microloan report for signatures. Gafford reported there are two possible microloans to be made before the end of 2009.

NEK HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Cynthia Cluck, NEK Health Department, presented a letter of support for Brown County to be a Beta-Test Site for the national accreditation process, which will establish the standards for health departments.

Motion by Warren Ploeger to approve signing the letter of support. Seconded by Steve Roberts. Motion carried.

Motion by Steve Roberts to adjourn. Seconded by Keith Olsen. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 10:35 a.m. The next meeting will be held Monday August 31, 2009 to approve the month end bills.