

ADAIR COUNTY COMMISSION MINUTES
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2016
16TH DAY OCTOBER ADJOURNED

The Adair County Commission convened at 8:30 a.m. on December 6, 2016 in the Courthouse at Kirksville. All Commissioners were present.

At 9:30 a.m., the Commissioners met with representatives of the University of Missouri Adair County Extension Council. Those present were Adair County Presiding Commissioner, Stanley Pickens; Adair County 1st District Commissioner, Carson Adams; Adair County 2nd District Commissioner, Mark Thompson; Extension Youth Specialist, Michelle Klem; Extension Council Chair, Sandra Fleak; Horticulture Specialist, Jennifer Schutter; and Nutrition and Health Specialist, Margo Myers.

Ms. Fleak thanked the Commission for their continued support. They presented the Commission with the 2017 Adair County Extension budget. The budget is very close to the 2016 budget with a slight increase, mainly for pay increases for the two employees. Vanessa has been the office manager for 30 years. They are currently looking to fill the vacant part-time secretary position. The surety bond is included this year, it is a three year bond. There is no increase in health insurance this year. Right now the University is continuing to provide benefits but they are unsure if it will continue past 2017. The Commission said they were pleased to see the amount of funding being provided by the University. Commissioner Thompson said that MU has caused a lot of problems this last year. He has three sons that went to MU and the alumni is upset and pulling contributions. When the minority rules, a lot of us have a problem with that. Commissioner Pickens commented that they had met the new MU Extension Director, Marshall. He seemed to be a good choice and everyone has high hopes. Commissioner Adams wanted to let everyone know that he would be abstaining from voting unless needed to break a tie, due to the fact that he is leaving office at the end of 2016. He did point out that the budget keeps increasing and one day they would hit a maximum of what the county could provide. He asked if they had looked into additional funding sources such as some of the companies and supplies that make money off of the farmers. MFA had mentioned in the past about wanting to give back to the community. The Extension members said they get a lot of support for the functions they host, such as the Livestock Symposium. Commissioner Thompson said that the Adair County Extension is the envy of the U.S. and of Missouri, especially in terms of the Livestock Symposium. There was discussion if anyone knew how much business was brought into the community because of the Symposium. It was suggested that they contact the Chamber of Commerce or the City in order to figure the increased taxes generated, whenever they become available. Ms. Fleak thanked the Commissioners for their support.

The Council members left.

Commissioner Adams pointed out that there had been a major increase in the last 10 years. When he came into office the amount was \$50,000 and this year they are requesting \$69,008. They need to go out for other funding. He also wondered if anyone knew if they were trying. The Commission discussed the proposed raise for the office manager saying that a \$1300 annual raise isn't that large for an employee that has been there for 30 years. Commissioner Pickens said he was pleased with the amount of funding they were receiving from the University but the amount they were requesting from the County was still high. They all agreed to continue thinking on the matter and would address it with the Adair County Budget figures.

Continued on page 439

ATTEST: Sandra Collop
County Clerk

 Mark Thompson
Presiding Commissioner