

ADAIR COUNTY COMMISSION MINUTES

TUESDAY, JUNE 26, 2012

Continued from page 262

Prosecuting Attorney, Matt Wilson, had two concerns he wanted to share with the officials. First, he stated that he had been told by several County employees that they were not allowed to campaign in support of an individual or to put signs in their yard in support for a candidate. Mr. Wilson stated that an elected official cannot fire or reprimand an employee for those actions. He stated that an employee can do what he or she wants to on their own time; this would be a violation of a person's 1st amendment right. He felt there was a spirit of fear within this office. He stated that he did not want to get caught up in the politics of the matter, but the County needed to let the employees know they are free to do whatever they want to do on that issue. Mr. Wilson continued by stating this behavior is on the verge of abuse of power or a hostile work environment and deemed to be detrimental to the County. All officials present agreed that a letter addressing this concern would be attached to the paychecks that will be available to the employees on Friday, June 29, 2012. The letter will cover the legal stance an individual has with regards to endorsing a candidate for office. It will be written by Mr. Wilson and each elected official will have the opportunity to sign the letter.

Mr. Wilson's second concern was the news story, "ride-a-long" with the Sheriff, aired by KTVO Television last week. He stated that the County needed to have a clear policy regarding transporting individuals that are not County employees. The liability policy for the County will not cover individuals who are not employees of the County or are not directly related to the work at hand. It was most disturbing to learn that the Sheriff's office had such a policy in place, but it was not adhered to in the case of the "ride-a-long." Inaccurate information within the story was also a concern.

After much discussion, it was suggested that Sheriff Hardwick address the above concerns with all the elected officials as these actions affect the entire County, not only his department.

Commissioner Thompson thanked Commissioner Pickens for the painting, carpeting and improving the appearance in the Commissioner's office.

The meeting ended at 12:00 p.m.

Commissioner Adams moved to accept the Sheriffs fuel bid from MFA Oil Company. Commissioner Thompson seconded the motion with all in favor. The Sheriff's office will contact MFA Oil Company of the award.

Rex Sykes inquired about the opportunity to hire the County for right of way work on Clemson Lane.

John Rowe has agreed to serve as a Citizen Member of the 2012 Board of Equalization (BOE). It is scheduled to begin on July 9, 2012. Commissioner Pickens will make contact to acquire the second Citizen Member for the 2012 BOE.

The Commission stated they will not be applying for a Brownfield Oil Company credit card at this time. Brownfield Oil Company has recently purchased Morris Oil Company of Kirksville.

ATTEST: Sandra Collop-County Clerk
Commissioner \.

Stanley Pickens- Presiding