

Commissioner Minutes of May 29, 2018

The Gladwin County Board of Commissioners met in Special Session on Tuesday, May 29, 2018. The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chairman Walters. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. All Commissioners were present.

The Chairman noted the purpose of the meeting today was to meet with the Courts to discuss their contract and any other matters that come before the Board.

Commissioner Aultman then asked the Board to consider the proposal from Preston Community Services, LLC for Equalization Services. Commissioner Aultman commented that she and Chairman Walters interviewed three applicants and feel that this firm will handle the position effectively. The proposed contract was for \$65,000 annually, as a contractual payment with no fringes, and provides for tax printing services and GIS work. Discussion. Motion by Commissioner Aultman, supported by Commissioner Birgel, to enter into the agreement with Preston Community Services effective June 1, 2018. Ayes carried, motion passed.

The Board then reviewed the revised agreements for website services from Stearns Marketing. After discussion, it was agreed that they would meet with Ms. Stearns to review their additional questions and concerns.

Chairman Walters commented that there is a heat issue in the Courthouse and that Mr. Ghent will be working with Bonham to see if the problem can be identified and corrected. Discussion. Motion by Commissioner Hinman, supported by Commissioner Smith, to allow Rick to proceed with the project in hopes to correct and fix it. Ayes carried, motion passed.

Commissioner Smith spoke on the renovations to Beaverton's World War I monument. The re-dedication of the monument will be held on June 30, 2018 at 10:00 a.m. at Ross Lake Park. Commissioner Smith commented on the new posting from the Genealogical Society that provides for the listing of service members from Gladwin County that died in service. This listing includes their enlistment, date of death and burial location.

The Board then took at recess until their Attorney arrived and the Courts were ready to begin.

RECESS 9:28 – 10:15 a.m.

Both sides met to discuss the issue of PA 152 and the impact each believes has on the Court Employees.

Bruce Kilmer, State Court Administrator's Office, commented on the purpose of today's session, noting each party has a different opinion of PA 152 and that he would like the Board to consider waiting until the contract is opened to apply PA 152 standards.

Attorney Leadford commented that this matter is a legal issue and that at this time the County is not willing to change their position and will continue to defend their decision.

Discussion on the Court Management Council's purpose and bylaws.

Judge Thomas Evans stated that this matter is a local issue and the two parties involved should be able to correct this issue without a lawsuit handled outside of the local level. Judge Evans commented further that this is going to cost the county more than the \$12,000 that they are arguing about. Discussion

Attorney Addis spoke on the impact on their responsibilities to the employees and that they will need to answer to the union employees if there is no gain today.

Judge Roy Mienk stated that the Board is “stuck on a principle”, noting this matter is a waste of money to pursue. The only individuals that can make money on this are the attorneys when there was a reasonable resolution presented for consideration. Judge Mienk continued to comment that the person steering the Board may not have the best intentions involved and may not be guiding them in the right direction.

Bruce Kilmer asked that the County continue the remainder of the year with no health care costs to the Court employee, plus return the amounts taken from the employees’ paychecks, and begin work on negotiating a contract for 2019 that addresses PA 152. Discussion.

RECESS 10:35 – 10:50 a.m. to caucus

Attorney Leadford commented that there was no change to the Board’s position, but noted that these parties could make headway with a bargaining strategy through the Court Management Council by setting a course jointly agreed upon. Attorney Leadford stated that all healthcare deductions would continue until then.

Judge Evans clarified the following: The Board will continue to withhold healthcare costs from the Court employees, that the costs that have been withheld will not be refunded and that the Board will remain status quo on this position until changes are made. Those clarifications were affirmed by Attorney Leadford.

*Motion by Commissioner Aultman, supported by Commissioner Hinman, to adjourn. Ayes carried, **motion passed.** Meeting adjourned at 10:55 a.m., until the next regular Board meeting on June 12, 2018 at 9:00 a.m., unless otherwise ordered.*

Laura Brandon-Maveal
County Clerk

Terry Walters
Chairman