

**Jefferson County
Farmland Preservation Board
Minutes
January 15, 2001**

Present: Roger Dailey, Shannon Donley, Joe Osterman, Jack Quinn, and Janet Stine, Jane Peters and Jane Tabb.

Others: Effie Callas and Craig Yohn.

Minutes from the December 4, 2000 meeting were approved as sent.

Janet Stine brought forward the opportunity to get matching funds for land preservation through a proposal that will be put forward by Senator John Unger to fund through the legislative digest, a matching fund program. For every dollar committed to land preservation the state would provide two dollars, up to a maximum of \$20,000. A motion was made by Roger Dailey, seconded by Jack Quinn to make a budget request of \$10,000 to the County Commission. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion followed about the need for funds to carry out the day to day expenses that may occur such as postage, other mailings, or costs related to the initial organization of the board. A motion was made by Roger Dailey, seconded by Jack Quinn to make a budget request to the County Commission for \$2500 to cover administrative expenses. The motion passed unanimously.

President Donley requested that a motion be made to send the approved bylaws to the Prosecuting Attorney for his review. There was also discussion on further guidance on fiscal issues such as the setting up of a checking account and bonding of the treasurer. A motion was made by Jane Peters, seconded by Jack Quinn to ask the Prosecuting for his views on these matters. The motion passed unanimously.

President Donley discussed the location of the Farmland Protection Board Meetings. He has some concerns related to having them in the County Commission workroom and the ability to secure other portions of the office. Jane Tabb concurred and stated it was also a concern of County Administrator, Leslie Smith. Joe Osterman stated that the rooms available at the Jefferson County Public Service Center in Bardane. Lighting is an issue, but money has been allocated to improve the lighting. Parking is not a problem. A motion was made by Jack Quinn, seconded by Janet Stine to move the regular meetings of the Jefferson County Farmland Protection Board to the Jefferson County Public Service Center. The motion passed unanimously. (**Note:** The conference room has been reserved on the first and third Monday of each month through the end of the year - CWY).

Discussion came back to the handling and administration of funds. It was interjected by Effie Callas, that it may be beneficial to investigate the possible benefit of having a nonprofit status. It is highly unusual to have a government body also have a nonprofit status. There may be some significant advantages to raising money if that status is awarded to the board. Roger Dailey will work with Effie Callas to investigate this possibility.

A motion was made by Roger Dailey, seconded by Jack Quinn to appoint Craig Yohn as assistant secretary. The motion passed unanimously.

The committee of Janet Stine, Joe Osterman and Craig Yohn discussed the development of the first three chapters of the Farmland Preservation Plan. Further refinement is necessary on chapters 2 and 3. There was discussion about data available from the Jefferson County Assessor. There are maps that are digitized with all of the property lines that have been done by the County Mapper. These files are not being made available at this time. Other useful information is the number of acres and locations of land that has been valued as agricultural land. This has not been totaled. It was suggested that Craig Yohn contact Shepherd College's Department of Environmental Technology and ask assistance in gather this data. Shannon Donley is to ask the Assessor about the ability to use the digitized maps in developing the Farm Preservation Plan.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned.