



Co. Commissioners Vote to Lower Salary of County Attorney

BY JASON JUMP
Editor

In a move to show the public they are hearing complaints regarding Harper County Attorney Daniel Martin, the Harper County Board of Commissioners voted unanimously, 3-0, Monday morning to cut the county attorney’s salary in half.

The cut will take effect once the 2025 budget amendment has been published in next week’s edition of *The Anthony Republican* and after the budget amendment hearing, which will be set in that legal publication.

Martin met with commissioners during Monday morning’s meeting to

discuss his 2026 budget proposal, which he said would be the same request as 2025.

Board Chairman Brian Waldschmidt, representing District 1, opened the floor for questions.

District 3 Commissioner Darrin Struble said he had several questions. The first was Struble wanted an explanation for a lack of action from Martin on two separate cases – Christian Jeffery Randleman and Corey D. Pierce.

Randleman, a 28-year-old man from Kingman, was arrested and charged with two felony counts of sexual abuse with a five-year-old in 2024. That case was recently dismissed after the

state failed to get to a jury trial within the 180 days from arraignment. Pierce’s case dealt with Martin not appearing in court for two separate appearances on April 11 and April 15.

A stoic Martin admitted the case was dismissed due to the failure to go to trial within the 180-day time frame. He said the defense attorney requested items “that required more time than I initially thought.”

“I’m not buying that,” Struble said. “Whether he’s – we don’t know if he’s innocent or guilty. That’s not serving the person you were supposed to be taking care of. (They didn’t get) any justice at all.

“You’re the one that’s

supposed to be protecting that person and nothing ever happened. It infuriates me. We work here for this community to do what’s right. Regardless if you are an elected official or not, the public depends on us to make the right call for this county.”

Struble questioned what “was going to happen to the next person” if he was in fact guilty of the crimes he was accused of back in 2024.

“I don’t know who this guy is. I don’t really care,” Struble said. “But apparently he’s around here somewhere, so he’s still running around here whether he’s guilty or not. I can’t say he’s guilty because we didn’t go

to trial. I don’t know.

“But there’s going to be lots of suspicion...he’s still running around here, so the next time they (law enforcement) arrest him it could be worse. Maybe somebody’s dead.”

District 2 Commissioner Melinda McCurley questioned whether the county could be held liable if another crime is committed.

“That could have been stopped,” Struble said of a potential crime. “It could have been stopped, Daniel.

“If it’s his (Waldschmidt’s) daughter, her (McCurley’s) daughter or my daughter or anybody else’s daughter and it happens and this guy should have been in jail – I don’t

know man. I’m telling you that’s not good. I’m sorry but that’s not right.”

Waldschmidt said when he visited with law enforcement they said the case was “pretty solid.” He said he trusted their assessment of the case and the reason Randleman was arrested.

“We all have kids in this room, and if that person that this was supposed to be a solid case against messes with one of the kids I know...it’s already gone too far,” Waldschmidt said.

“People look at us (the commissioners) as what are you doing to help protect our kids.”

Struble said he had a call

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Fireworks Ordinance Revisions Discussed

BY STEPHANIE JUMP
Staff Writer

The Harper City Council expressed interest in making changes to city ordinances regarding dates for selling and discharging fireworks in city limits in the future but will not be able to make changes to any city ordinances until after this year’s celebration.

Councilman Lonnie Teel brought up the subject during new business during Monday’s meeting.

“I don’t have a problem with them selling fireworks on the 27th. I guess my only issue is I don’t want fireworks going from the 27th (of June) to the fourth,” said Teel. “I guess the other issue is with the fireworks is that when they do set them off, they set them off in the street and then you drive up and down the street and there is firework papers everywhere.”

Police Chief Tom Burns spoke up and said that when the fireworks are allowed to be able to be sold on June 27, then people will want to set them off on the same day.

“The problem we run into is kids,” said Burns, “And then the neighbors get mad because the kids are doing it and then they get mad at me because I didn’t put the kid in jail.”

“I think it is too much of a temptation for a nine or 10 year old kid because when I was that age if I had something that went bang, I was going to make it go bang,” said Burns.

Mayor Eric Latta said that the dates need to be the same for selling and discharging.

City Administrator Tiffany Cooperrider told the council that city ordinance will trump state law on the selling and discharging of fireworks.

“Those dates have to coincide,” said Latta.

Cooperrider did remind the council that fireworks are not allowed to be discharged in the city streets.

Councilman David Earls agreed that it is unsightly to drive down the street and seeing all the trash that remains after private celebrations.

Cooperrider reminded the council that the hours of discharge are 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. from June 27 to July 2, 10 a.m. to midnight on July 3 and 4 and 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. on July 5.

Latta said it was too late in the game to make changes for this year but the council plans to address the issue again for next year.

Councilwoman Brandi Vogeles said that even if people discharge fireworks on their private property wind will blow remnants out into the street.

“Community pride is what it boils down to,” said Earls. “Pick up your trash folks.”

The council’s next regular meeting is July 14.



STEPHANIE JUMP / The Advocate

Local Flooding: Heavy Rain Fills Chikaskia River

Heavy rainfall that hit Harper County last week led to flooding along the Chikaskia River. Harper County has received 7.5 inches this month as of June 24, according to www.raindrop.farm, the website for the RainDrop App. That is a considerable increase in the amount of rainfall received for the month of April (4.56 inches) and for the month of May (4.8 inches), according to the Raindrop App.

County Passes New Policy on Ambulance Drivers

STAFF REPORT

Harper County commissioners voted unanimously, 3-0, Monday morning to pass a new policy that will allow EMS to utilize CPR certified drivers to help staff its ambulances.

District 3 Commissioner Darrin Struble said the board would like to see each EMS station within the county –Anthony, Attica and Harper – have an ambulance staffed each day. He said this policy will help get the county closer to that reality.

Harper County EMS Director Jan Harding said she would still need another one or two full-time or part-time staff members to make that request happen, but she was in agreement with the county’s goal.

Harding told commissioners it was probably more likely all three of the county’s EMS stations could be stationed for 12 hours during the peak activation time each day.

The new policy will allow CPR-certified drivers to operate the EMS ambulances under the following conditions:

- mass casualty events
- call back when original crew is on transfer
- emergent transfers with at least two certified people in the patient compartment
- an all-page event
- assist with staffing on standby
- to assist an additional ambulance during peak call volume hours

- to bring an additional unit to a scene.

Ambulance drivers must also meet the requirements of Kansas Board of Emergency Medical Services, as well as the Harper County Emergency Medical Services. Drivers will also have to compete a defensive driving course within three months of being hired, as well as a HIPPA training course. Drivers will do a ride along in the front and back of the ambulance to become acquainted with mobile patient care, as well as traffic issues and routes to hospitals and emergency room bays. Training will also be given on how to operate the unit’s lights, sirens and radios, as well as routine maintenance.

