

Commissioner Meeting  
April 25, 2016

Chairman Brian Hind called the regular meeting of the Greenwood County Commissioners to order at 9:00 a.m. Other members present were Ben Fox, Cole Conard, Kathy Robison, County Clerk and Paul Dean, County Counselor.

Commissioner Conard made a motion to approve April 18, 2016 minutes. Commissioner Hind seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Road and Bridge Supervisor, Roger Lowe, reported that crews have been pulling logs at bridges and hauling rock and blading. Lowe also reported that the chip/seal bid presented last week in the amount of \$587,859.72 was for approximately 14 miles, which equates to more than \$41,000 per mile. The commissioners said the price has doubled since the last chip/seal project two years ago. Later in the meeting the commissioners discussed the possibility of hiring extra workers during the summer to do chip/seal projects instead of paying an outside company because Commissioner Conard commented that he thought Lowe had reported the county still had the equipment; however last year's flood damage took priority in getting it serviceable. Commissioner Conard said the idea of having the county do the work in-house was worth looking into. He added, "I'm willing to shut everything else down, but we've got to back him (Lowe)." The commissioners would like to discuss the idea further with Lowe before making any decisions.

Commissioners viewed the weekly Treasurer's Report.

Commissioner Fox made a motion to approve a payable, dated 4-20-2016 for an army truck to make into a firetruck, in the amount of \$8,200. Commissioner Conard seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Commissioner Conard made a motion to approve payroll in the amount of \$86,622.19. Commissioner Fox seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Commissioner Fox made a motion to approve payables in the amount of \$83,127.78. Commissioner Conard seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Commissioner Fox made a motion to approve the Quarterly Financial Report. Commissioner Conard seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Commissioner Hind made a motion to approve Resolution GW16-02 (Petition to close a road Sec 18, Twp 24, Rng 13E). Commissioner Fox seconded the motion. The motion carried.

After viewing a stack of 33 deteriorating survey books, that Marsha Ramsey, Register of Deeds, brought to the commissioners to ask permission to have them repaired. Commissioner Fox made a motion to approve repairing the survey books for the Register of Deeds Office in the amount of \$10,000. Commissioner Conard seconded the motion. The motion carried. The funds will be taken from the Register of Deeds Tech Funds.

Dr. Stanley Skaer addressed the commissioners regarding, citizen Alan Wyckoff, attending the meeting last week to discuss being landlocked from his property. Dr. Skaer said the property had been vacated in 1981 and presented the legal description. Skaer also told commissioners that the Federal Government owned the property, not Wyckoff because the, according to Skaer, the land had been condemned because of low water elevation near a river. Alan Wyckoff, who was also present at the meeting, assured the commissioners and Dr. Skaer that not all of the land was condemned and he still owns and pays taxes on it. Dr. Skaer said that the Appraiser has it marked incorrectly and that the property belongs to the Corps of Engineers. Wyckoff said he feels Skaer posted signs that close more of the road than should be. County Counselor, Paul Dean, asked Wyckoff how he accessed his land, which lies along the river. Wyckoff reported that, over the years, he has received permission from the neighbors to cross over their land to get to his. Jami Clark, County Appraiser, said that they show the property belonging to Alan Wyckoff and that he has indeed been paying taxes. There was further discussion on the matter, then County Counselor, Paul Dean, stated that it is a civil issue between the landowners and would have to be settled in the court. "This commission is not in a position to rule on this issue," said Dean.

Troy Shaw, with the Eureka Area Chamber of Commerce asked commissioners for permission to use the courthouse lawn and parking lot for Eureka Days events on June 4<sup>th</sup>. Shaw plans on obtaining liability insurance and would like to have a bouncy house on the lawn. Greenwood County Sheriff's Department Officer, Randy Cox, cautioned Shaw to find out where the electrical, gas and water lines are before allowing the stakes to be driven in for the bouncy houses because of a past incident he witnessed. The commissioners gave Shaw permission and told her to speak to Jason Findley, Building Maintenance Supervisor for the courthouse.

The commissioners reviewed the letter on the Reece Road Closing.

Commissioner Conard asked County Appraiser, Jami Clark, about taxing hunting properties at the "recreational rate" of 30 percent of market value. Commissioner Conard commented that he heard other counties were doing that but didn't know if Greenwood County did. Clark explained, "There's pro's and con's and then there's a lot of questions." She added, "If they only deer hunt and that's all they do, then it probably should be recreation." She clarified that would include no livestock, no haying or other farming. Clark says there are some small lots in the county classified as recreational, but if the property is also used for agriculture purpose, they are taxed at the ag rate, which is lower.

The commissioners discussed a property in Neal that had been declared a public nuisance. They have been dealing with the property owner for quite some time over excessive trash and debris, including multiple old tires. Officer Cox, with the Sheriff's Department, reported that the landowner was getting ready to be released from jail and has relayed that he will be working on cleaning up the land. Commissioner Hind went to look at the property and expressed his frustration at the lack of progress on the lot, especially the potential for standing water in tires, attracting mosquitoes. County Counselor, Paul Dean, told commissioners that the state statute applies to the lot and that they could declare it a public nuisance and proceed with enforcing the cleanup.

Commissioner Hind said he had been contacted by the crew working on the Esslinger bridge, southeast of Madison, and was told that the state inspector indicated there may be a problem with some of the bridge girders. The construction company was ascertaining if they could leave the girders, but offer a five percent discount for the error. Commissioner Hind reported that before he could get more information and determine what to do, the company called back and told him never mind, they would replace the girders.

Commissioner Fox announced that the VFW started replacing the roof of the courthouse gazebo last weekend and the project should be finished sometime soon.

Commissioner Hind made a motion for a 10 minute executive session for legal with Paul Dean, County Counselor. Commissioner Conard seconded the motion. The motion carried.

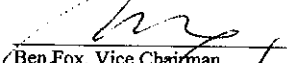
No decision was made.


At 11:06a.m. Commissioner Conard made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Fox seconded the motion. The motion carried.

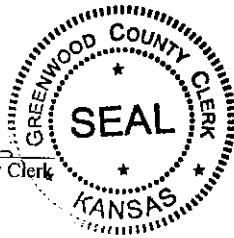
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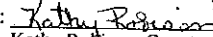
May 2nd-- Next Commission Meeting -- 9:00 a.m.

  
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Brian Hind, Chairman

  
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Ben Fox, Vice Chairman

  
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Cole Conard, Member



ATTEST:   
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Kathy Robinson, County Clerk