

Commissioner Meeting
April 13th, 2020

Chairman Paul Hodge called the regular meeting of the Greenwood County Commissioners to order at 9:00 a.m. Other members present were Chuck Spradlin (conference call), Ben Fox, Roy Ballard, Robert Joe Morgan, Kathy Robison County Clerk (conference call) and County Counselor Paul Dean (conference call)

The Commissioners led everyone present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Chuck Spradlin made a motion to approve April 6th, 2020 minutes. Commissioner Roy Ballard seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Road and Bridge Supervisor Darrel Chrisman reported that the final signature had been received for the Bitler Bridge project. The future of the project is now in the hands of the state. Last week Chrisman informed commissioners that, due to an anticipated spike in tire prices expected to occur later in the year he would like to look at purchasing a variety of tires. Darrel presented Commissioners with the amount of \$9,935 for said tires. Commissioner Ballard made a motion to approve purchasing approximately 30 tires in the amount of \$9,935. Commissioner Ben Fox seconded the motion. The motion carried. Chrisman stated that he is looking at installing a tin horn at the bridge on 130th.

Sheriff Heath Samuels brought before the commission a proposed negotiation between the department and Crosswinds. Samuels told Commissioners that in the event one of their employees needed to utilize Crosswinds services, this would afford the department the capability to pay for their first two visits at a lower cost.

Emergency Management Director Levi Vinson reported that the County's fiber optic sewer line project has been installed. Levi stated that Maintenance Supervisor Jason Findley was working to ascertain a timeline regarding the anticipated completion of the sewer portion. Vinson told commissioners that most people are taking the COVID-19 situation seriously and that fact is reflected in the numbers. Vinson stated that the anticipated peak for COVID-19 cases for the state of Kansas is the end of this week. Vinson told Commissioners that if the models hold true, numbers should begin to decline soon after. Commissioner Roy Ballard stated that if things were to return to normal too soon, all of the precautionary measures being taken would be for nothing. Ballard also noted that once people begin returning to their regular schedules, they might be more conscious of their social habits. Levi Vinson told commissioners that the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism has officially suspended the sale of non-residential turkey tags. Sheriff Heath Samuels noted that in a typical year, the state of Kansas sells approximately 50,000 turkey tags. He then stated that, not only would this impact tag sales, it would also cause a bump in the turkey population.

Health Department Director Vicki Ross reported that no new cases of COVID-19 have been reported in Greenwood County. Ross stated that the public will soon see if people were able to maintain social distancing efforts through the Easter holiday. If not, Kansans may see an increase in outbreak numbers.

Commissioners, alongside courthouse staff, will soon have to determine how to best conduct the voting process with social distancing due to COVID-19 in mind. At this time, elected officials running for office or for another term will still be required to seek signatures from within their district or township, or they can opt to pay a fee rather than get signatures.

Sheriff Heath Samuels noted that, with the recent appointment of Judge Hutchinson to the District Court Judge position, Greenwood County Attorney Joe Lee will be seeking to fill the position of Elk County Magistrate Judge. Samuels then stated that Greenwood County would then need to start searching for candidates to fill the position of County Attorney.

Commissioner Hodge made a motion to adjourn at 9:48 A.M. Commissioner Morgan seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The next Commission meeting will be held Monday, April 20th, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.

Paul Hodge
Paul Hodge, Chairman

Ben Fox
Ben Fox, Vice Chairman

Chuck Spradlin
Chuck Spradlin Member

Roy Ballard
Roy Ballard, Member

Robert Joe Morgan
Robert Joe Morgan, Member

ATTEST: Diana McCaffrey deputy
Kathy Robison, County Clerk

