

Commissioner Meeting
August 26, 2019

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

The commissioners led everyone present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

No Commission Meeting Minutes.

Road and Bridge Supervisor Darrel Chrisman reported the drawings were finally completed for the concrete boxes to be installed at 360th Street between R and Q Roads near Madison and on L Road between 180th and 200th Streets. Chrisman said County Engineering Consultant Michael Maris has already approved the plans, and Chrisman will call the company today to arrange the date to have the boxes installed as soon as possible. There was a brief discussion about delivery and site prep. Chrisman will make the arrangements and continue to communicate with the Commissioners. Chrisman also relayed they are continuing to do regular maintenance; the new trucks have arrived, the belly-dump needed to be aligned; they have permission to tear a box-bridge out and put a 4-foot horn in the space, at a Township's request, it's a little woodtop bridge; Commissioner Spradlin asked if Road and Bridge was helping Noxious Weed with mowing since there was an issue with Johnson Grass recently in several areas of the county and visibility. Chrisman said yes they were in the process of transporting mowers to Severy for the Labor Day Celebration. Commissioner Spradlin asked Chrisman if he was aware of the Johnson Grass problem in the Virgil area and Chrisman said he was not but they were planning to help the Noxious Weed Department with mowing until they got things straightened out/caught up. Chrisman said the bridge at the Landfill has been poured and they hope to have it up by Wednesday. Chrisman also discussed some other bridge projects they will be working on.

Commissioners reviewed the weekly Treasurer's Report.

Commissioner Fox made a motion to approve payables in the amount of \$364,731.66. Commissioner Hodge seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Commissioner Hodge made a motion to approve payroll in the amount of \$104,968.83. Commissioner Fox seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Shawn Harding with HMN Architects out of Overland Park shared information with the Commissioners regarding the possibility of building a new jail. Harding has been part of multiple jail projects in Kansas, including Dodge City, Rooks County, Chautauqua County, the new Butler County Jail, and others. "The discussion has to start some place," commented Commissioner Spradlin. Commissioner Fox said the jail facility has been an issue for years adding, "This can has been kicked down the road a long time." The subject has been addressed many times over the years due to flooding caused by inmates, because the jail is above the Sheriff's Department Office space, and Dispatch, and when inmates have done this it has caused damages that have cost the county money to fix the issues. Harding mentioned how unusual Greenwood County's setup is with inmate housing situated above the offices. Sheriff Heath Samuels said with recent flooding he feels the jail situation is becoming more urgent. After more discussion. Samuels and the commissioners talked about the committee Samuels would like to put together to be formed for the to advise on the need for the jail. Samuels said, "I know we need it, you know we need it, I want the community to know we need it." The commissioners agreed about the committee and told Samuels to move forward with it. The committee will be comprised of different representatives from all areas of the county. Commissioner Spradlin volunteered to represent the Commissioners on the committee.

Commissioners heard from two concerned Piedmont citizens regarding the poor condition of their roads. Both parties reported roads being so rough they're tearing vehicles up, including a school bus. Commissioner Spradlin noted that the roads belong to the township so the county really doesn't have jurisdiction. Commissioner Spradlin asked County Counselor Dean if the county can step in on a matter like this. Dean replied if the roads were impassable, the county could step in and repair the roads, sending the bill to the township, but just to instruct the township to maintain the road was out of the scope of the county. Commissioner Hodge said he would volunteer to attend the next Otter Creek township meeting to see if he could help work it out. Commissioners suggested the residents gather a group of concerned individuals to attend the next township meeting to express their issues.

Commissioners noted that they need to appoint a hospital board member to fill the vacancy left when Board President Pam Brown moved out of the County. They had several candidates in mind but have not spoken with all of them. They decided to table the appointment until the next commission meeting after they've each had time to speak with potential candidates.

Maintenance Building Supervisor Jason Findley was present to discuss carpet specs for the new commission/multi-purpose meeting room that will be located in what is now the current Extension Office. Findley had met with a local carpet vendor Alan Johnson for a bid for the requested flooring and told the Commissioners that removing the old carpet will be done in-house in order to save money. Commissioner Spradlin mentioned if they were going to be bidding carpet now would be the time to look at other areas of the courthouse that needs it as well. Findley plans to gather the information and expand the bid. There was

more discussion in relation to the project. The Extension Office will be moving into some offices that are currently in use by the Appraiser's Office, down the hall towards the County Attorney's Office. The Appraiser's staff is going to be moving their equipment into their current quarters in order to free up the office space for the Extension Office. There was also a discussion about the initial design bid and how it was high and the commissioners agreed there were items on the bid that did not need to be replaced or costs could be cut to save money on the room in other areas too, such as: repainting the existing walls, instead of resurfacing them; purchasing federal surplus furniture and equipment and putting off building a secondary exit until a later date. Commissioners agreed they need a desk to accommodate five Commissioners, new chairs and some electrical modifications at the minimum but a big chunk of the initial proposal was not necessary.

Extension Council President Arlene Edwards and Extension Agent Lindsay Shorter asked commissioners to remove a question on the November ballot regarding extension districting. The question would have asked voters whether commissioners should move forward with districting Greenwood County K-State Research and Extension with Chautauqua and Elk Counties. Arlene Edwards explained, "We don't feel we've had the opportunity to educate the public." Extension Agent Lindsay Shorter added that with all of the other items on the ballot they wanted to save the question for a future election and have more time to educate voters. At the council's request, Commissioner Fox made a motion to rescind Resolution 19-05. Commissioner Hodge seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Health Department Administrator Vicki Ross presented a page from the county handbook with the policy on timekeeping procedures. Ross told commissioners her employees' times were "getting shaved" in the payroll office and they were not being compensated accurately for time worked. She noted that recently, 12 of 17 shifts and 9 of 11 shifts had lesser time than was turned in. She stated that in order to avoid that happening any further, she had elected to submit total hours worked for her department instead of turning in start and end times as the handbook specifies. Administrative Assistant Brandi Starr was also in attendance and told commissioners that her hours were affected. Commissioner Spradlin told Ross and Starr they needed to wait until the executive session to discuss the situation. Starr remarked she wanted it discussed in open meeting as she thought other employees may need to check their time. Spradlin interrupted her and said he was not in agreement of discussing it in open session and firmly asked them to wait until the executive session scheduled later in the meeting.

Commissioner Fox made a motion for a 15 minute executive session for employee evaluation with County Clerk Kathy Robison and County Counselor Paul Dean. Commissioner Hodge seconded the motion. The motion carried.

No decision was made.

Commissioner Fox made a motion to approve a 5 minute executive session for employee evaluation with Health Department Administrator Vicki Ross and County Counselor Paul Dean. County Clerk Kathy Robison joined them after that session for an additional 5 minute executive session. After that session Ross and Robison left and the Commissioners and Dean had an additional 5 minute executive session.

Commissioner Spradlin stated the earlier claim of "shaving time" was not substantiated and was not true. Spradlin explained that the issues pertained to the county policy of time rounding, which is permitted. When an employee has plus or minus minutes to their actual work time, the time is rounded using a formula to the nearest 15 minute mark. It was the consensus of the commission board that the time card in question had been rounded correctly. The commission board also decided the Health Department must purchase a time clock to accurately record times in and out. The purchase price of the time clock is \$319. Commissioners will review the hours in question if needed to make sure they were appropriately recorded.

Ambulance Director Brian Mongeau reported that three county EMT's had enrolled in Advanced EMT (AEMT) training at their own cost and initiative. The training will run through December. Mongeau will be working toward grant funding for reimbursement for course costs.

Noxious Weed Director Levi Vinson presented an employee verification for Jennifer Carson as a full-time Noxious Weed Technician at \$13.50 per hour. Commissioner Fox made a motion to approve the employee verification for Jennifer Carson at \$13.50 per hour. Commissioner Hodge seconded the motion. The motion carried. As she adds certifications, she will increase her wage by .50 per hour, with a potential hourly wage of \$15.00 per hour. Vinson said she will be spraying, mowing and working with sales in the scope of her job. Commissioners asked if she was able to monitor inmate crews, as the previous person in that position did. Vinson explained that she could only supervise female crews, according to state statute, thus she would not be including that in her job duties. Vinson also presented bids for a networking copier for the Weed/Road and Bridge offices through a networked access system. Bids ranged from \$2,689 to \$5,322.80 for different models. A discussion was held on the pros and cons of the different models. Commissioners decided Vinson should obtain more bids before making a decision.

Commissioner Spradlin reiterated the situation with tall Johnson grass obscuring visibility near Virgil. Vinson replied that he was addressing problem areas in the county including the Virgil area. "It's enough that it needs to be a priority," urged Spradlin, referring to the Virgil situation. Vinson replied that they would address it by the end of the week.

County Clerk Kathy Robison informed commissioners she had been told by the Kansas Department of Revenue-Property Valuation Division (PVD) that the county is required to hire an acting appraiser to function in the absence of former Greenwood County Appraiser, Jami Clark. Commissioners are in the process of hiring an appraiser and are advertising, but must have an interim appraiser in place, according to the PVD.

Commissioner Spradlin made a motion for a 10 minute executive session for a specific employee evaluation with County Counselor Paul Dean. Commissioner Fox seconded the motion. The motion carried.

After the executive session, commissioners took a 10 minute break to approach a candidate and when they convened, they announced they would appoint Shawna Griffiths, current personal property appraiser in the Greenwood County Appraiser's Office as the Personal Property Appraiser. Her pay will change from \$13.44 per hour to \$14.44 per hour, effective 8/26/19. The \$1.00 pay rate change is with the understanding that the commissioners will complete their initial review of applicants to fill the position. State statute requires a permanent replacement to be in place within six months of a vacancy with credentials. Commissioner Spradlin made a motion to appoint Shawna Griffiths as acting Appraiser with the \$1.00 raise per hour. Commissioner Fox seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Commissioner Fox mentioned he spoke to someone at AT&T regarding the phone situation he has been trying to resolve. They had offered a plan that included WiFi that adds \$5.00 month to your bill but saves you \$35.00 off of each line that you are paying now. However, he found out recently, that if you use the WiFi, they charge you \$40.00 more. Commissioner Fox said a possibility would be to add the WiFi plan but not use it, just have it for the benefit of getting the price reduction on the phone bill.

At 11:27 a.m. Commissioner Hodge made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Fox seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Calendar:

- Sept. 2nd – Courthouse Closed in observance of Labor Day Holiday
- Sept. 3rd – Commission Meeting -9:00 a.m.
- Sept. 26th – GW Co. Hospital Board Mtg. @ 5:30 p.m. @ GW Co. Hospital

ATTEST: Kathy Robison
Kathy Robison, County Clerk

Chuck Spradlin
Chuck Spradlin, Chairman

Ben Fox
Ben Fox, Vice Chairman

Paul Hodge
Paul Hodge, Member