

Commissioner Meeting
December 9, 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, Roy Ballard, Robert Joe Morgan, Paul Hodge, and Kathy Robison County Clerk. County Counselor Paul Dean was not present.

The commissioners led everyone present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Fox made a motion to approve December 2, 2019 minutes. Commissioner Ballard seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Commissioner Hodge made a motion to approve special payables in the amount of \$8,528.40. Commissioner Morgan seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Road and Bridge Supervisor Darrel Chrisman presented a rock testing report but informed the commissioners that he still needs information on Hilltop and Braden and needs to contact Patrick, out of Toronto and Martin Marietta. Also Chrisman relayed that Mike from KDEM said we should be receiving a check anytime for debris removal from the October 2018 event. Last Wednesday Greenwood County received approval for their RS Roads (Federally Subsidized Roads), roads that must have at least \$5,000 or larger worth of damage. Chrisman said the rough estimate was around \$70,000. So it will pay for the bridge on 360th and the other damages in the area, which was in about five spots. Commissioner Spradlin mentioned the Road and Bridge Department is doing a good job documenting damages from storms, etc. to make it possible to receive this kind of funding. Chrisman reported that the box on L Road, will not be completed but should be passable by this evening. Chrisman said they will be doing a joint run to the Federal Surplus in Topeka to look at a truck and some tools. Chrisman said the arch bridge on 60th is supposed to be taken out and he will consult with Engineering Consultant Michael Maris on what type of solution they can come up with. There was a brief discussion about options. Chrisman reported they received a hydrology report on the bridge on W Road and they put a 4' tinhorn in with riprap so it is safer. Commissioner Morgan said that Chrisman's guy did a wonderful job cleaning up the bridge at Reece; on Reece Road, south Reece, but reported that the weight sign is laying in the north ditch, on the east side. Commissioner Morgan said he didn't really pay attention to the west side. Commissioner Morgan added that he thought they needed to take a shovel and dig a trench on one side or the other and let the water out, because it's going to dam it up. Chrisman said he would go look at the bridge. Commissioner Morgan asked Noxious Weed Director Levi Vinson if he brought them a sample of the bluestem grass. Vinson explained that in the summer and spring time old world bluestem grass is hard to identify, but in the winter it turns white vs. regular grasses that turn brown. Vinson told the commissioners he is sending out one of his Noxious Weed employees and having them map the areas where the grass is, so they know where to treat this spring and summer. Commissioner Fox asked if it has been designated a Noxious Weed. Vinson said he has made many contacts with the state to the Noxious Weed Specialists on declaring it locally, and he hasn't gotten any response from them yet. Commissioner Hodge told Vinson that he has received several compliments from his district on how good the area looks because of the tree trimming and they appreciate them doing it.

There was no Treasurer's Report to view at the meeting but it was going to be emailed to the commissioners.

Commissioner Spradlin asked the other commissioners if they had a chance to review the information, regarding the Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA), and gave them a brief overview of COLA. Commissioner Spradlin said they put 1.6% in the budget for a COLA to be effective on the first pay period in January 2020. There was a brief discussion regarding the COLA; Commissioner Hodge said it wasn't that he didn't think the employees deserved a raise, because he did, he just disagreed with the COLA; Commissioner Morgan said he agreed with the raise; Commissioner Ballard asked if they needed to make the decision today and asked if the employees received 1.6% last year, as well. Commissioner Spradlin explained that they actually received 1.4% last year and he asked County Clerk Kathy Robison if she agreed that it would be best to make the decision today. Robison agreed and explained that departments need time to start figuring the 1.6% raises into their budgets. Commissioner Spradlin explained they were able to plug it in to the county budget and were able to do it with no mil increase. Commissioner Spradlin made a motion for a 1.6% increase as a Cost of Living for 2020 based on the first paycheck in January. Commissioner Morgan seconded the motion. With a total of four votes for "Yes", and Commissioner Hodge voted, "No".

Building Maintenance Supervisor Jason Findley told commissioners that the fan in the heating unit at the storage building, located by the Road and Bridge Department, is no longer working. Findley reported that the fan motor, itself, is \$996.00, plus there would be labor. Commissioner Ballard asked if the motor was actually burned up and Findley confirmed that it had been checked and that was the issue. Commissioners told Findley to go ahead and replace the motor. Findley also asked if the commissioners wanted him to paint the paneling on the wall of the meeting room or replace it instead, but told them he couldn't guarantee how well the paint would cover, due to the slick surface. The commissioners decided to have the paneling painted and if it didn't work out they would decide to do something else.

Commissioner Fox asked about the electrical project at the Road and Bridge Department and the sewer line/fiber optic project also going on out at the Road and Bridge Department. Noxious Weed/Emergency Management Director Levi Vinson, said Fire Chief Doug Williams contacted the people responsible for the sewer line/fiber optic project and gave them a deadline and it is supposed to be completed in the next two weeks. Commissioner Fox commented that after the Road and Bridge Department is done then hopefully they can do the electric for the Sheriff's Department. Undersheriff Cox said that their electrical work has already been done, as the state had been in and it was past due. Commissioner Morgan asked Jason for a map of the county they could hang in the meeting room. Commissioner Spradlin relayed there are several different maps in the old commission room that show a lot of information about the county. Commissioner Spradlin also shared that the Madison High School had wanted to take the maps and redo them to make them look good. Findley said he would get a temporary map to use for now.

Undersheriff Randy Cox presented a new employee verification for Blake Dow Fisher as a jailer for the Sheriff's Department. Commissioner Fox made a motion to approve the employment verification for Blake Dow Fisher at \$10.25 per hour starting December 11th. Commissioner Spradlin seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Undersheriff Randy Cox updated the commissioners on a vehicle they purchased from Shawnee Mission Ford, in the amount of \$32,767. Cox explained that, earlier in the year, commissioners had previously discussed the purchase of a Ford Explorer but due to the fact that the vehicle would not be available until the end of March, they settled on the purchase of a 2020 Ford Utility PI AWD. Cox informed the commissioners the new vehicle is \$400 less than the Explorer they had planned on purchasing. Also Cox explained upfitting of a vehicle, and that this one will be \$8,384.26, which is a little higher than usual, but the body of the Ford vehicle has changed, so they are unable to take any of the old equipment off and put it on this new one, as it will not fit. The funds are first to come from capital outlay and then equipment reserve. Cox also told commissioners that they will be selling a couple of vehicles soon on the Purple Wave auction, which will help put a little more money back in equipment reserve.

Commissioner Fox made a motion that we proceed with the Fence Viewer Order. Commissioner Morgan seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Noxious Weed Director Levi Vinson talked to commissioners about upfitting the Noxious Weed truck that Jerrid Baumgartel drives with lights due to the vehicle frequently stopping and working along roadways. Vinson said the cost should be around \$1,000. Commissioners agreed that it should be done for safety reasons and told Vinson to proceed.

Commissioner Spradlin made a motion to approve an executive session for an employee performance review. Commissioner Fox seconded the motion. The motion carried. After returning from executive session Commissioner Spradlin made a motion to change Building Maintenance Supervisor Jason Findleys' hourly rate of pay from \$14.96 to \$16.50 per hour, starting December 11, 2019. Commissioner Fox seconded the motion. The motion carried.


At 10:05 a.m. Commissioner Fox made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Hodge seconded the motion. The motion carried.


Calendar:

- December 13th – Bids for Year-End Dinner due in Clerk's Office by 5:00 p.m.
- December 16th – Commission Meeting – 9:00 a.m.
- December 16th – Bids for Year-End Dinner to be opened at Commission Meeting @ 9:30 a.m.

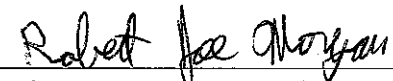

Chuck Spradlin, Chairman


Ben Fox, Vice Chairman

ATTEST: 
Kathy Robison, County Clerk


Paul Hodge, Member


Roy Ballard, Member


Robert Joe Morgan, Member