Chairman Ben Fox called the regular meeting of the Greenwood County Commissioners to order at 9:00 a.m. Other members present were Paul Hodge, Chuck Spradlin and Kathy Robison, County Clerk. Paul Dean, County Counselor arrived at 9:12 a.m.

There was no discussion at the meeting.

Amber Woodie, Road and Bridge Office Manager reported that Road and Bridge Supervisor Roger Lowe and Emergency Management/Noxious Weed Director Levi Vinson are in Springfield Missouri looking at chippers. Woodie also told commissioners that crews have been salting and sanding; maintaining and repairing vehicles and have started employee evaluations. Woodie told commissioners that Vinson had texted her that morning and said there were about 15 chippers to choose from with a price range from $10,000-$20,000. They are dual self-feeding models which makes the chipper safer. Commissioners asked to speak to Vinson and Lowe so Woodie contacted them by phone to answer the commissioners’ questions. The commissioners asked them a couple of questions but Vinson and Lowe were not quite at Springfield yet, so they had not seen the equipment. They said they would call after viewing the chippers. Woodie informed the commissioners that the compactor in Texas that had been discussed last week, was sold, so they are back to looking for a compactor for the landfill. Woodie said that Cat, Gulf Coast Equipment, and Berry Tractor are all trying to find one. Darrell spoke to someone at Berry Tractor today that said they found one in Oklahoma, but they do not have any specs on it yet. Woodie resubmitted the bids for the 2007 Kenworth dump truck to have the new motor and radiator installed. The commissioners had asked Lowe to contact the vendors and gather more information on the unit. The bids were from (1) Foley at $25,420.00, (2) Berry for $24,860.00; (3) Dothan, $29,555.27. Commissioner Spradlin made a motion to approve the bid from Berry in the amount of $24,860.00. Commissioner Hodge seconded the motion. The motion carried. Woodie reported information that had been previously requested. The total amount of the Norwegian Church bridge project is $800,236.16. The amount covered by a grant channeled through the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) is $643,388.93, and the portion the county is responsible to pay is $160,847.00. Woodie told commissioners that Dalton Evenson has a meeting Wednesday at 9:00 a.m. with a geologist and Warren Harshman of Harshman’s to discuss the quarry in the north west end of the county. Woodie extended an invitation to the commissioners to join the meeting with Harshman’s in regard to the quarry.

Levi Vinson, Emergency Management/Noxious Weed Director; asked Amber Woodie, Road and Bridge Office Manager; to update commissioners on Road and Bridge employee Mike Johnson passing his Household Hazardous Waste 24-Hour Training Course last week. Attending and passing are required to perform HHW functions and Vinson is requesting that Mike Johnson be allowed to take over the HHW section and be the director of that Department. Woodie said Vinson’s reasons are that it would allow him to dedicate more time to Emergency Management, Noxious Weed, and that he has a background in that field and seems to be passionate about it. Woodie also brought up an Annual Noxious Weed Eradication Progress Report. She said it was the 2017 report highlighting chemical sells and estimated noxious weed infestation. Woodie presented the report to get Spradlin and Hodge’s signature, as Fox has already reviewed and signed the report. Woodie asked about updating the handbook to reflect clarification regarding vacation hours for the Road and Bridge Department. Commissioner Fox explained, the specific issue is holiday pay, which is an 8-hour pay day, and a normal work day for a Road and Bridge employee is a 10-hour work day. So the county has been allowing them to use 2 hours of vacation time to cover the 2 hours they would lose from their regular workday. They were all in agreement that they were okay with the change to the handbook so County Counselor, Paul Dean said he would update that section for their approval at a later meeting.

Commissioner Spradlin made a motion to approve special payables, dated February 26, 2018, in the amount of $1,284.01. Commissioner Hodge seconded the motion. The motion carried. Later in the meeting another payable, dated February 26, 2018, in the amount of $20,000 was approved, making the total amount of special payables for February 26, 2018 $21,284.01. The motion for the $20,000 amount is later in the meeting minutes.

Commissioner Hodge made a motion to approve payroll in the amount of $95,925.01. Commissioner Spradlin seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Commissioner Hodge made a motion to approve payables in the amount of $316,497.95. Commissioner Spradlin seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Karen McIlvain, legal representative for Terry Hart, a property owner near Severy at X Road and 40th Street addressed the commissioners regarding a fence. The issue is with a fence at that location, the property owner on the other side, Frank McCollum had attended a commission meeting last Fall and requested a fence viewing. McCollum said the fence needed repair. An initial viewing was scheduled in October of last year, but neither landowner showed up. Commissioner Fox, Commissioner Hodge, and the late Commissioner Hind had all been at the scheduled fence viewing but Commissioner Hodge got out of the vehicle and walked the fence line in question to examine it. After viewing the fence it was decided that it was in need of repair and the commissioners had County Counselor Paul Dean draft a letter to Hart and McCollum explaining that it would be both property owners’ responsibility to split the cost to repair/replace the fence. McIlvain reported thatalthough the fence viewing had been done, it was her understanding that only one commissioner viewed the entire fence in question and the statute reads that there needs to be more than one. Commissioner Hodge met with landowner Hart and walked the entire fence line in question, as well. The commissioners decided to schedule another fence viewing @ X & 40th @ 11:00 a.m., March 19, 2018. It will be published twice in both newspapers.

Sandra Dickerson, CEO of the Greenwood County Hospital presented the commissioners with an income statement which included January 2018 and Fiscal Year 2018 budget amounts. Dickerson went over the figures with the commissioners and told them that according to the income statement, the hospital is under budget for expenses and revenue by one percent. “So we’re staying on track,” she said. Other notable data included a loss of $52,685 in net income for the month of January with a loss of $171,187 for FY18. Gross revenue is at $158,240,721 for FY18, which is two percent ahead of the budget. The balance sheet also reflects that gross patient receivables are at $3,913,986 with total net assets for the hospital at $3,135,941. Dickerson relayed that they are still working on the 2017 audit and should have those available soon. She also noted that they will have a strategic plan, with financial statements for March.

City Administrator Ian Martell attended the meeting to report they have 25 parcels in the city that are delinquent in their taxes and they are ready to be put on the tax sale, so he was inquiring when the next sale was going to be, as mowing season was coming up again and would be their responsibility. Counselor Dean told Martell the tax sale is scheduled for April and the city should be receiving notification soon. Commissioner Fox asked Martell about the recent discussion at city meetings regarding their proposal to annex property at the Eureka City Lake. Martell estimated the city’s costs were between $700,000 and $800,000 for appraisals on the project. Commissioner Fox wanted to monitor the tax ramifications for both the city and the county during negotiations.

Commissioners viewed the weekly Treasurer’s Report.
Health Department Director Vicki Ross asked permission to have her department credit card limit raised due to upcoming trainings and medical supply purchases. The commissioners agreed to raising the limit to $2,500. Commissioner Spradlin made a motion to approve changing the Health Department credit card limit from $1,000 to $2,500. Commissioner Hodge seconded the motion. The motion carried. Commissioner Spradlin commented that spending purchases over a specific amount still needed to be approved before charging to the card, so raising the limit shouldn’t be an issue.

Rob Runquist, CEO of CrossWinds Counseling and Wellness, presented their year-end review. Runquist reported a 24% increase in new clients this year across their service area, which includes Greenwood, Lyon, Chase, Morris, Wabaunsee, Osage and Coffey Counties. He also added that they offer services to the schools in Greenwood County: full-time at Madison, part-time at Hamilton, and some school-based services in Eureka.

Levi Vinson, Emergency Management, Noxious Weed Director, called back to the meeting regarding the used chippers he was looking to possibly purchase at Barth Equipment, in Springfield, Missouri. The Chipper, Vinson was interested in was a self-feeding model, no warranty, but the company said they would make sure there were no problems before sending it out and they would work with the county if something went wrong in the first couple of weeks they had it and not leave them “high and dry”. Final sticker value on it was, $20,000, which includes shipping. Vinson said they will have to do some modifications to be able to tow and use it with current county equipment but they would have it in service this week. Commissioner Hodge made a motion to approve the chipper purchase, in the amount of $20,000, and a check to be made out to Barth Equipment, and overnight mailed to the dealership. Commissioner Spradlin seconded the motion. The motion carried. The funds will come from Road and Bridge Special Machinery.

At 10:30 a.m. Commissioner Hodge made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Spradlin seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Calendar:
March 5th – Next Commission Meeting – 9:00 a.m.
March 5th – Open bids @ Commission Mtg for the new Ambulance
March 21st – Annual Township Dinner @ Matt Samules Bldg @ 7p.m./Registration @ 6:30p.m./RSVP by 12p.m. March 9th w/Road & Bridge office (620)583-8111
March 22nd – GW Co. Hospital Board Mtg @ 5:30 p.m. GW Co. Hospital Conference Rm.
March 26th – Farm Bureau Lunch w/Commissioners @ 12:00 p.m. – Restaurant not chosen yet.

Ben Fox, Chairman
Paul Hodge, Vice Chairman
Chuck Spradlin, Member