

Commissioner Meeting
July 11, 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, and Kathy Robison, County Clerk. Paul Dean, County Counselor was not present.

Roger Lowe, Road and Bridge Supervisor, thanked everyone for pitching in and helping with the Tornado clean-up; Lowe reported crews have spent the weekend hauling debris from the storm, he asked permission to rent a trash compactor for the debris. The commissioners approved him to pursue the compactor. One of the County Dozers' went down, so they used Francis Chaplin and Lowe reported that he worked very hard.

Levi Vinson, Emergency Management Director reported that, "We could not have done what we've done without the support that we've received from not only our local community, but all of our neighbors," "If it wasn't for everybody showing up from neighboring counties and municipalities, we'd still be moving trees." The commissioners agreed the prompt support from residents and neighboring communities exceeded their expectations.

Greenwood County Sheriff said, "As far as the house clearing and reporting system done, we did this one three days quicker than what they did up there." (Referring to the Reading Tornado) Samuels accredited some of that to the quick response time of the Kansas Division of Emergency Management (KDEM) and the Incident Management Team (IMT). Fire Chief, Doug Williams, was thankful for the regional support organizations like the IMTs and rescue teams that were established in the 2000s in addition to the volunteers and outside organizations, appreciation was also shown to all county officials and employees.

Vinson reported that after search and rescue operations were conducted Friday morning, crews started working to clear the roads and begin removing tree debris from the yards. As the majority of tree debris has been removed, crews will begin to focus on removing building debris. Vinson anticipated the building debris would take longer to clear because of the further distance to the landfill and because of the size and weight of the debris. Vinson and Sheriff Samuels explained that as of Monday 13 addresses were displaced, and they were assisting residents to find alternative housing.

The commissioners gave Vinson permission to donate his office later this week to the Kansas Division of Emergency Management and the Small Business Association, who will be conducting assessments and offering low-interest loans to damaged businesses and homeowners.

County Appraiser, Jami Clark, presented a state statute passed in 2013, which allows commissioners to approve a proration of taxes for dwellings affected by storms, as long as the governor deemed the area a "disaster." Clark said the dwellings have to be considered 50% destroyed. The commissioners wanted Clark to move forward with the statute and work with the City of Eureka officials. Commissioner Hind made a motion for Jami Clark to move forward with the statute to approve a proration of taxes for dwellings affected by storms. Commissioner Fox seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Michael Maris of Elite Engineering reminded commissioners that bridge grant applications are due July 29th. The commissioners asked him to identify the most critical bridges. Commissioner Conard also wanted to submit an application for the bridge east of Rice Bridge. The commissioners also agreed to get bids for Snell crossing north of Hamilton.

Dave and Cindy Pelky, from rural Hamilton addressed the commissioners with their concerns about giving the hospital 6 mills. They were not in favor of the increase because they stated that they did not use the hospital personally, they thought it was mostly utilized by "Eureka people", taxes were already horrendous, and they don't see a purpose for a hospital that is this small and has such limited facilities. They discussed the services the hospital used to provide, an example is that there was a surgeon on staff. They suggested if the hospital was kept open that it be an acute care center so emergency services were still available, but no hospital beds. They also suggested that this issue be put to a vote, versus, be the commissioners decision. Commissioner Hind explained that in order to automatically go to a vote, they would have to assess over six mills. Fire Chief, Doug Williams and Lenny Tyson expressed their support of the hospital. The commissioners agreed they still have questions for the hospital to answer and they hope to hear from the Greenwood County Hospital at their next meeting July 18th.

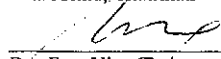
At 10:32a.m. Commissioner Fox made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Hind seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Calendar:

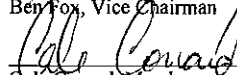
June 18th - Next Commission Meeting - 9:00 a.m.




Brian Hind, Chairman



Ben Fox, Vice Chairman



Cole Conard, Member

ATTEST: 
Kathy Robison, County Clerk

