

Commissioner Meeting
July 22, 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.

Commissioner Fox made a motion to approve July 15, 2019 minutes. Commissioner Hodge seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Commissioners viewed weekly Treasurers Report.

Road and Bridge Administrative Assistant Amber Woodie told commissioners that FEMA has always said they only cover minor collective roads because the State of Kansas gives us funding to cover major collective roads, but they have changed their policy. Woodie said with all of the damage this spring they have changed the criteria so she will be going out and reporting on six sites they have. One of the criteria is that you have to have \$5,000 worth of damage. Woodie also reported they found a 2011 Ford F350 flatbed truck for recycling, with 79,400 miles. The cost of the vehicle is \$19,999. Commissioner Fox made a motion to approve the purchase of the truck for recycling. Commissioner Hodge seconded the motion. The motion carried. Woodie relayed they received a bid from Willow Creek Construction, of Fall River, for the replacement of the landfill bridge, in the amount of \$15,574. No one else has sent a bid in. Commissioner Hodge made a motion to accept the bid from Willow Creek Construction to replace the landfill bridge, in the amount of \$15,574. Commissioner Fox seconded the motion. The motion carried. Woodie also submitted three culvert bids: (1.) J & J Drainage Products Co., in the amount of \$17,180; (2.) Welborn, in the amount of \$20,765.62; and (3.) Coyote Culvert, in the amount of \$22,911.60. Commissioner Hodge made a motion to accept the 1st bid from J & J Drainage Products Co. in the amount of \$17,180. Commissioner Fox seconded the motion. The motion carried. Road and Bridge Supervisor Darrel Chrisman reported they are planning on looking at semis this week. Commissioner Hodge asked Chrisman about a section on C Road that needs attention by Beaumont. Chrisman said they would take care of it. Commissioner Hodge also asked about N Road. Chrisman told him a slab would probably be better than a tinhorn. Commissioner Hodge also reported a place on 50th and P Rd that needs something done, Chrisman said he would go look at it. Chrisman also told commissioners that he had talked to McPherson Concrete regarding the draft they are working on for the box bridges. They should have something soon.

Commissioner Fox made a motion to approve abatements in the amount of \$778.68. Commissioner Hodge seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Commissioner Fox made a motion to approve a conditional use permit for a new AT&T tower in Reece that had been approved by the zoning board. Commissioner Hodge seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Barbara Anderson talked to the commissioners about the Rural Opportunity Zone (ROZ) student loan repayment program. The program was designed to increase the population in certain counties while helping students pay their student loans. In the agreement, the program will pay new county residents \$3,000 per year for five years, for their student loans. Half the money comes from the county and the other half is from the state. Anderson discussed that employers can also participate. They discussed Resolution 19-06, which pertains to the Rural Opportunity Zone Program and Anderson explained that if they decide to opt in at 0 then any business in the county can use this program to benefit the county by possibly increasing the population and helping students pay back their student loans. Commissioner Fox made a motion to approve Resolution 19-06 to allocate 0 a year for the Rural Opportunity Zone student loan repayment program. Commissioner Hodge seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Commissioners received a letter from Kenneth Van Cleave regarding Johnson grass within the county. Commissioner Spradlin asked Noxious Weed Director Levi Vinson if he had seen the letter and what the protocol is for Johnson grass now. Vinson said that it is an issue, and there is really only one chemical that can get rid of it but it is very expensive, so most people don't want to use it. Vinson also mentioned that Sericea Lespedeza is more of a problem than Johnson grass, as there is more of it in the county now and the cattle will not eat it, but they will eat Johnson grass, so it can be baled. There was a discussion between the commissioners, Noxious Weed Director, and Sheriff Heath Samuels regarding the "minimum standards" the City of Eureka has decided to enact at the airport after the 2019 spray season, which restricts aerial operators to not operating on the apron, the concrete approaches to the runway, and having to operate out of a hanger for their chemical spray needs. They discussed how it would affect the weed population by substantially reducing the amount of aerial spraying in the county. They discussed concerns about the agriculture and livestock industry and commissioners asked County Counselor Paul Dean to check in to look into the situation for them.

Commissioner Hodge asked to speak, and mentioned he had received several phone calls over the weekend and referred to an email from Re-Envision, the design company drawing the plans up for the multipurpose room with a \$60,000 budget. Commissioner Hodge stated, "I for one don't think that amount of money is going to work." Commissioner Hodge added that with people coming in with budgets that are needing more money, he felt there were better places to spend the money. "For the expense it's going to cost and what we're going to get out of it, I think we need to forget that," he said. Commissioner Spradlin pointed out other reasons for developing the new quarters, other than just for a commission meeting, such as; a meeting room for emergency services that would provide technology needs during FEMA events and other emergency functions. There was a brief discussion about the room and uses for funding.

Commissioner Fox relayed that he finally heard back from an AT & T contact about the issues with the phone bill, and he was given some quotes: \$60 per line and \$15 for unlimited long-distance, totaling \$75 per month or \$35 per line, \$5 unlimited long-distance, and \$10 hotspot, totaling \$50 per month, with a \$50 one-time charge for hotspot.

Commissioner Hodge made a motion to approve an employee pay rate change for EMS Administrative Assistant Kristina Olson from \$11.92 per hour to \$13.79 per hour. Commissioner Fox seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Undersheriff Randy Cox presented two bids for a new truck. One in the amount of \$32,001, which the dealership will deliver for free and payment just needs to be received within the first 21 days. The second one was in the amount of \$32,663 and the dealership will deliver for \$300 and needs payment, upon delivery. Commissioner Fox made a motion to proceed with the purchase. Commissioner Hodge seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Noxious Weed Director Levi Vinson brought up the process for noxious weeds, which includes a formal letter from the county stating the violation and giving a timeline for the property owner to eradicate the issue. If not sprayed, the county has the authority to spray it or contract a sprayer and send the property owner a bill. If not Paid, the county may assess the bill to the owner's taxes. Vinson said the county usually does not follow through with spraying or contracting the work, but he recommended starting this year.

Emergency Preparedness Director Levi Vinson reported there were 14 out of the 15 townships participating at the FEMA kick-off meeting, as well as the county, and the cities of Hamilton and Severy. The city of Eureka did not attend. Their damages are suspected to be over \$100,000. The city of Madison did not feel like they had any damage.

At 10:34 a.m. Commissioner Fox made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Hodge seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Commissioners held a work session following the commission meeting.

Calendar:

- July 25th – GW Co. Hospital Board Mtg. @ 5:30 p.m. @ GW Co. Hospital
- July 29th – Commission Meeting -9:00 a.m.
- Aug. 6th – Primary Election – Eureka City Only – Matt Samuels Bldg. – 7 a.m.- 7 p.m.
- Aug. 12th – Board of Canvass – 10:00 a.m.

ATTEST: Kathy Robinson
Kathy Robinson, County Clerk

Chuck Spradlin
Chuck Spradlin, Chairman

Ben Fox
Ben Fox, Vice Chairman

Paul Hodge
Paul Hodge, Member