

Commissioner Meeting
May 28, 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 May 20, 2019 minutes. Commissioner Hodge seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Road and Bridge Supervisor Darrel Chrisman said that a bridge on 360th between Q and R is closed; bridge at the Landfill is closed, so the Landfill is closed indefinitely; and a bridge on L between 180 and 200 is closed indefinitely. Road and Bridge has a fence out. Chrisman reported that Truck 5 is going back to McPherson for repairs and that Truck 2 is temporarily down. Chrisman said he is checking on a box culvert for 360th. There was some discussion on a Federal Highway program that may assist in help with paying for the box culvert. The project must exceed \$5,000, then it will help pay a percentage of the project.

Commissioners viewed the weekly Treasurer's Report.

Commissioner Fox made a motion to approve abatements in the amount of \$837.52. Commissioner Hodge seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Commissioner Fox made a motion to extend the disaster declaration EP19-04, that was signed last week, due to the flooding in Greenwood County. Commissioner Hodge seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Emergency Management Director Levi Vinson reported that nine volunteer Fire Departments, several sheriff's officers, wildlife parks, KDOT, and several other people were out at sunset Friday night, to put barricades out on all of the roads. Sheriff Samuels relayed there were not enough barricades, as some were lost in a storm a couple of weeks ago and have not been replaced yet. Samuels expressed frustration as the officers had to use patrol cars to barricade some of the bad roads, and they were unable to ticket some of the people that drove through dangerous waters, as there was no barricade across the road.

Emergency Management Director Levi Vinson mentioned there may be complaints over the county's decision to evacuate Fall River because of the releasing of water at the dam. Vinson explained that when he was contacted by the Corp. of Engineers regarding the amount of water that was to be released, he contacted a hydrologist, who told him that the houses immediately below the dam would be flooded. Vinson also asked about the City of Fall River and the hydrologist said that they did not know. With that information, it was decided to evacuate. The water got within twenty feet of structures, but Vinson said now knowing how much water was released and how close the water got will help them gauge future evacuation situations.

Emergency Management Director Levi Vinson told commissioners he would like to start looking at the possibility of an Emergency Operation Center (EOC). Vinson said after the two tornadoes and several storms he has thought the county would benefit from one centralized location to manage incidents, including technology availability, communications, housing accommodations for visiting emergency personnel and parking provisions. Several locations around Eureka were discussed, however no decisions were made at this time.

County Fire Chief Doug Williams asked Emergency Management Director Levi Vinson to request an additional camera for the county's drone, as the large one they currently have has infrared technology, but the zooming quality is too weak. It is unable to distinguish between a human or wildlife. After some discussion regarding the use of the drone, by many different departments, Commissioner Fox made a motion to approve the purchase of an add-on camera unit with 30X zoom capability, in the amount of \$2,999. Commissioner Hodge seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Emergency Management Director Levi Vinson noted that all townships in the county are participants in the FEMA reimbursement process, except for Lane and Salem. Vinson noted he has not been able to contact anyone in Salem, however, in the past they have chosen not to participate.

A group of representatives from the local Greenwood County Extension Council and other interested parties approached commissioners regarding their interest to join the Rolling Prairie District, comprised of Elk and Chautauqua Counties to form a three-county extension district. Those present were Jannette Luthi, local Extension Council; Greg Davis, on the local Extension Council and the State Extension Advisory Council; Arlene Edwards, and Joni Booth, from the local Extension Council; Jim Lindquist, K-State Extension Specialist; Shari Kaminska, Elk County Commissioner; Jamie McNutt, Southeast Kansas Extension; Lindsay Shorter and Jane Whitson, Greenwood County Extension Agents. Some points brought up by the representatives for investing in becoming a three-county extension district were joining resources with other counties and providing other services, as we would be moving from two agents to four. The group urged the commissioners to sign a resolution to move forward with the districting immediately. Commissioners were hesitant, as they explained it would raise the taxes and they all agreed they felt that decision should be left to the voters. There was some discussion regarding the taxing and procedures, between the group and commissioners, however, the commissioners told them they were generally in favor of the districting, but still felt it should be a decision for the voters of Greenwood County. County Counselor Paul Dean will draft a resolution to add a question to the upcoming November election regarding a three-county extension.

Register of Deeds Marsha Ramsey had planned to use her tech funds to purchase the new computers and server she recently needed to update in her office, but asked permission to use equipment reserve money instead for those purchases so she can use tech funds to digitize and microfilm records. Also she would like to use equipment reserve funds to purchase a new copy machine, as hers is outdated. The commissioners gave her approval with all of those requests.

Appraiser Jami Clark asked about the status of Re Envision, the consulting company, hired for the new commission room project. Commissioner Spradlin asked if anyone had heard from them and said that Building Maintenance Supervisor Jason Findley was supposed to be meeting with them. Clark also reported that we are having trouble with the internet. Commissioner Fox said he would examine everything after the meeting. Building Maintenance Supervisor Jason Findley joined the meeting and reported that the Re Envision consultant said he had not received the email, but he would like to have a conference call next Monday with the commissioners and Findley for some ideas.

Sheriff Samuels asked commissioners if, due to the shortage of barricades, they would authorize the purchase of wood and supplies from the Road and Bridge budget and he would have the inmate work crew build them so there were more for the next emergency. The commissioners approved the request.

Commissioner Spradlin made a motion for a 5 minute executive session for personnel with County Counselor Paul Dean for employee performance. Commissioner Fox seconded the motion. The motion carried. An additional 5 minutes was added to the executive session.

No decision was made.

Emergency Preparedness Director Levi Vinson said he has been talking to Sheriff Samuels and Undersheriff Cox and they would like to create a network of weather stations and have them throughout the county so everyone will know what's going on. Vinson is looking at information on different packages, you can find a good one for around \$200, but you must have wi-fi. Vinson will present more information at a later time.

At 11:12 a.m. Commissioner Fox made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Hodge seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Calendar:

June 3rd – Commission Meeting -9:00 a.m.

June 27th – GW Co. Hospital Board Mtg. @ 5:30 p.m. @ GW Co. Hospital



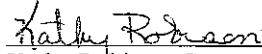
Chuck Spradlin, Chairman



Ben Fox, Vice Chairman



Paul Hodge, Member

ATTEST: 
Kathy Robison, County Clerk