

Commissioner Meeting
October 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 October 21, 2019 minutes. Commissioner Hodge seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Commissioners viewed the weekly Treasurer's Report

Road and Bridge Supervisor Darrel Chrisman reported that Administrative Assistant Amber Woodie submitted her resignation as a full-time employee effective November 8, 2019 and is now a part-time FEMA Specialist to be paid \$20.00 per hour to close out their current open cases that she had worked. The events will be reimbursable by FEMA. Chrisman also reported that the concrete box culverts to replace the bridge west of Madison were supposed to ship that morning; Leiser Excavating has been hired to prepare the site for the boxes, commissioners felt he had plenty of time to prepare the site and they mentioned they hoped he would get the project done quickly, as several people have complained about the bridge being shut down so long. Chrisman also reported they had grader school Thursday (Road Maintenance), but were unable to do the scheduled Friday class (Road Ditching) due to the mud. He also has a truck going to Foley for a second opinion.

Emergency Management Director Levi Vinson asked commissioners to attend a KDEM (Kansas Division of Emergency Management) planning session this week to discuss the new funding model and to determine FEMA eligibility on the bridge at 100th and U Rd. KDEM wants to review the new litigation process with commissioners.

Treasurer Donna Olson shared information regarding a county fund specific CDBG Micro loans program through the state. The county has \$68,000 in the fund and since the last loan was made in 2011 the state is requesting that the funds be returned. It was promoted and utilized when the county had economic development. After some discussion, the commissioner would like to reach out to Linda Snyder, who is involved in the South Central Kansas Economic Development District (SCKEDD), for more information.

Commissioner Spradlin revisited the clerk's salary discussion from last week. The clerk receives close to \$10,000 from the county for election services as additional pay and Spradlin would like to see it set at a steady \$10,000 and add it into her regular salary, to be paid out in bi-weekly paychecks. Commissioner Spadlin also mentioned that the Treasurer also receives roughly \$10,000 from the state for Department of Motor Vehicle duties. Commissioner Spradlin suggested paying the treasurer an additional \$1,000 from the county in order to compensate for the lack of COLA included in the state's payment. After a brief discussion, Commissioner Fox made a motion to approve setting election pay for the County Clerk at a steady \$10,000 and adding it to her salary, to be disbursed in bi-weekly payments. The Treasurer will receive an additional \$1,000 to be paid by the county to compensate for the lack of COLA, included in the state's payment. Commissioner Hodge seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Commissioners revisited the COLA information that was presented by County Clerk Kathy Robison at last week's meeting and all three decided they would like to wait until closer to the end of the year to make the determination.

Commissioners revisited the 12 holiday proposal County Clerk Kathy Robison had suggested at the October 21, 2019 Commission Meeting. After a brief discussion, it was decided to revisit the idea at budget time, due to concerns for the emergency departments that pay time and a half.

Commissioner Fox made a motion to approve Resolution 19-08 (Kingsley Properties). Commissioner Hodge seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Greenwood County resident Melvin Casey expressed concerns over the Bitler Bridge that has been scheduled for replacement. The cost of the project is nearly \$1 million dollars, and Casey asked what the difference between the cost of that bridge and a low water crossing would be, as he explained he felt it was a low traffic area, where only about four to five people utilize the bridge. Casey also added that the bridge has been closed since Spring when the water was high and no one suffered. Commissioners noted the Bitler bridge had qualified for a KDOT (Kansas Department of Transportation) 80/20 grant and they were limited to applying for bridge projects that met KDOT's specifications. That bridge met the qualifications. Commissioners said they would have preferred the money go towards replacing the Christian Hills bridge which has substantially more traffic. They were concerned if they declined the grant funding for the Bitler bridge it would affect their chances for future grant awards. They plan to consult with County Engineering Consultant Michael Maris.

Melvin Casey suggested a different bridge to consider, south of Quincy that prevents traffic from accessing US54 whenever the lake levels are up. Casey thought it would be a better choice for replacement, or at least building a separate path for residents to access the highway. Commissioner Fox said he would go and view the area and bring information back to the other commissioners for consideration.

Emergency Management Director Levi Vinson said he spoke to a Verizon representative recently regarding a concern a citizen had shared that the construction of a new Verizon tower near Eureka was stopped because of the county or city. Vinson learned that the hold-up was actually with Verizon, as they had issues with paperwork on their end and are currently awaiting approval from the FCC. Then they will resume construction, which should significantly improve cell service in Eureka.

Sheriff Heath Samuels presented a letter to the commissioners from the Reno County Juvenile Detention Center regarding an increase to their juvenile housing charges, due to inflation.

Commissioner Fox made a motion to appoint Maurice Strecker to fill the vacant Greenwood County Hospital Board position. Commissioner Hodge seconded the motion. The motion carried.


Commissioner Spradlin made a motion for a 5 minute executive session for employee performance review with Noxious Weed Director Levi Vinson and County Counselor Paul Dean. Commissioner Fox seconded the motion. The motion carried.

After returning from executive session, Commissioner Spradlin made a motion to approve increasing Jerrid Baumgartel's pay from \$15.25 per hour to \$15.50 per hour, effective 10/28/19. Commissioner Fox seconded the motion. The motion carried.

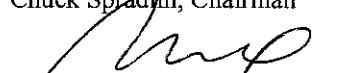
At 10:15 a.m. Commissioner Fox made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Hodge seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Calendar:

- November 4th – Commission Meeting -9:00 a.m.
- November 5th – General City/School Election @ the Matt Samuels Building/Hamilton Community Building/Sauder Community Center/ & Severy Methodist Church/ from &7:00a.m. -7:00p.m.
- November 11th – Courthouse Closed in Observance of Veteran's Day
- November 12th – Commission Meeting – 9:00 a.m.
- November 12th – Board of Canvass for 2019 City/School Election @ 10:00 a.m.
- November 26th – 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