

Commissioner Meeting  
September 19, 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 arrived at 10:00 a.m.

Commissioner Fox made a motion to approve September 6, 2016 minutes. Commissioner Conard seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Commissioner Conard made a motion to approve September 12, 2016 minutes. Commissioner Fox seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Roger Lowe, Road and Bridge Supervisor, reported that Vance Brothers has given him a new quote for the chip/seal project in the amount of \$17,318.40 an increase of \$422 per mile due to the quality of rock purchased by the county, the company determined they needed more oil. Lowe also reported they thought they could begin between September 28-October 3 and should conclude by October 7. Commissioner Conard made a motion to approve the new bid of \$17,318.40 for the chip/seal project with Vance Brothers. Commissioner Fox seconded the motion. The motion carried. Lowe reported that the 30 days are up at the Landfill; crews are mowing and dealing with washouts; Ladd Bridge has a hole that a Volkswagen can fit in; Lowe reported they received cameras; he reported working with Rhonda last week on timecards and that they would be working with Levi, FEMA Deputy Director this week. Lowe reported that the trucks are fixed and going again. Commissioner Hind mentioned there are a few local County fuel vendors that are interested in bidding on selling fuel to the county.

The commissioners viewed the weekly Treasurer's Report.

Levi Vinson, Emergency Management Director, received more denial letters from FEMA for the May 2015 storm event. So far, of the projected \$171,000 in damage claims, approximately \$68,000 has been denied by FEMA. Reasons range from records not being turned in for labor and equipment to denial based on a 2012 Google Earth aerial photo. Vinson said a representative at the state level encouraged him to appeal FEMA's findings since they had used an aerial photo to determine a bridge (one of the claim's denied recently) was not properly maintained. Therefore, from the aerial photo FEMA could not see what was under the bridge. After some discussion it was decided to appeal the claim. The commissioners advised Vinson to appeal all of the claims and keep working on getting the recent ones paid as well.

Brian Mongeau, EMS director, asked the commissioners to pay half of the EMT course instructor fee (\$3750) and the cost of the EMT course books \$314 each. Mongeau reported that 15 students have signed up for the course. The course will take four months to complete with approximately 15 to 20 hours per week of online studies, plus Saturday lab classes. Mongeau has a contract he would like County Counselor Paul Dean to review.

Discussion was held about the road viewing at HH Rd & 175th on September 12<sup>th</sup> @ 11:30 a.m. It was decided not to take action and close the road due to a local landowner protesting the road closure.

Jami Clark, County Appraiser, asked commissioners about the tax abatement percentage for dwellings that were at least 51% damaged by the July 7 tornado. The commissioners agreed that since the tornado occurred about halfway through the year, they would abate 50% of the taxes on dwellings and land only. Garages and businesses will not apply. Commissioner Conard made a motion to approve allowing a 50% tax abatement on dwellings and land that were at least 51% damaged by the July 7 tornado. This does not include garages or businesses. Commissioner Fox seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Dawn Larcom, County Appraiser's Office, reported on the courthouse AS400 computer hardware and software system that was originally purchased in 2008. At that time it was expected to last 4 to 5 years and is used by almost every department in the courthouse for taxes, payroll, abatements and many other processes. Larcom said because it is outdated, the courthouse will no longer be able to get software updates. To upgrade, the cost will be \$25,000 for the new programs and will also include three years of hardware and software maintenance, which is typically \$35,000 per year. Commissioner Conard made a motion to approve the cost for the upgrade for the AS400 in the amount of \$25,000. Commissioner Fox seconded the motion. The motion carried.

David Longstreth, a landowner in Greenwood County, requested that commissioners waive or reduce the amount he owes in oil royalty back taxes and penalties discovered while recently selling the property. The amount of the royalty taxes owed is \$17,010.70 on the \$185,000 that has been paid out over the last several years to the family. Longstreth says he did not receive the tax statements and didn't know he owed the taxes. County Counselor Paul Dean stated that statutorily, the commissioners are prohibited from making any modifications to taxes owed, including penalties and interest. Dean said that Longstreth will have to pay the taxes under protest and then go through the appeals process. The commissioners were going to have a teleconference with Longstreth to discuss the issue but decided it would be best to have the County Counselor explain the statutes and appeals process to him.

County Treasurer, Donna Olson, reported that 191 parcels have been delinquent on taxes since 2013 and are eligible for the next tax sale. She asked commissioners to set a date for next year so that the departments could get started on the process. The commissioners and County Counselor Paul Dean agreed that the tax sale will be no later than August 1, 2017, but were unable to identify an exact date yet. Olson said the total delinquent taxes from those parcels amounts to \$330,000.

Commissioner Hind made a motion for a 10 minute break. Commissioner Fox seconded the motion. The motion carried. Paul Dean, County Counselor, called David Longstreth to discuss the above-mentioned tax issue.

After returning from break, County Counselor Paul Dean, said he had spoken to David Longstreth and explained the commissioners decision, as well as Longstreth's right to appeal the decision.

Commissioner Fox made a motion to approve abatements in the amount of \$3232.66. Commissioner Conard seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Commissioner Fox reported that Donna Whitehead is now the chairman of the zoning board. He is still searching for a replacement member, following Carolyn Perrier's resignation.

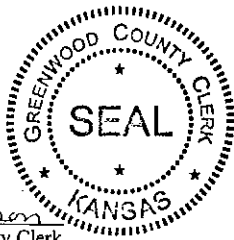
Commissioner Hind made a motion for a 10 minute executive session for personnel with Paul Dean, County Counselor. Commissioner Conard seconded the motion. The motion carried.

No decision was made.

At 10:55a.m. Commissioner Conard made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Fox seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Calendar:

September 26th- Next Commission Meeting - 9:00 a.m.



ATTEST: Kathy Robinson  
Kathy Robinson, County Clerk

Brian Hind  
Brian Hind, Chairman

Ben Fox  
Ben Fox, Vice Chairman

Cole Conard  
Cole Conard, Member