

Minutes of January 23, 2023

Chairman Kelly called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Commissioners Dan Brenner and Mark A. Pruett were present. County Clerk Kathy Mick recorded the minutes and County Counselor Lee Hendricks was also present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Lee Hendricks requested an executive session for attorney client privileges for a period of 10 minutes. Mark so moved, Dan seconded, and Chairman Kelly called for a vote. Motion carried 3/0. The meeting closed at 9:05, extended 15 minutes and opened at 9:28. No decision was made.

John Boyd informed the Commission that he is against the fiasco at Delia, the solar farms will destroy farm ground and kill wildlife. Mr. Boyd also informed the Commissions that patent land shouldn't be taxed.

Scott Kieffaber discussed the meeting with Dawn Hueske concerning the audit of how the County handled the purchase of Road right-of-way for a bridge project in September of 2021. Scott says the County owes a landowner \$20 for a temporary right-of-way that was missed and the Commissioners approval of the price per acre was not made by a motion in the minutes. One landowner was overpaid by .24 acres, Scott will check with the Engineer that designed the bridge to clear up the error on the plans. Lee would like copies of emails concerning all these issues.

Scott has purchased 6 bags of road stabilization/dust control. Scott wants to finalize the road stabilization/dust control budget and road locations, so he can get them scheduled.

The Commissioners reviewed the bids for a mini back-hoe:

White Star	Bobcat	E50	\$75,204.52
State Tractor	Sany	SY50	\$68,775.00
State Tractor	Sany	SY60	\$74,775.00

Tabled until later today.

Scott had a meeting with Scottwood Industries on applying the dry product. He learned a lot. Scottwood would like for the County to contact landowners who want to pay for dust control in front of their home and collect payments from the landowners. Scottwood would treat the selected County roads and landowner paid for roads at the same time.

Linda Jackson will attend an Excel Advance class and Matt Fritz will attend an Excel Basic class at the Topeka Library.

Wade reported that L Road 190-230 has been fix. Mowers are back working weather permitting. Putting up signs during wet weather. This week plan is 2 pipes on T4, Boom mower to T4 & working on C Road 270=286. Future planning: T4 project, 118 & I Ditching & 262 & J fix ditch & rocking.

Signed Request and Petition to Occupy County Right-of-Way for Telcom Construction to Bore 40 feet of 3pr 24 gauge copper cable from pedestal to customer's property and continue on customer's property in Sec 21, Twp 09 Rng 15E on Road Q.

Mark Pruett reported that 246 and Old Hwy needs repaired and 246 west of I has a tube that maybe plugged.

Dan Brenner reported that at K-116 and the Fertilizer plant needs 1/4 mile of work.

Lee Hendricks requested an executive session for 5 minutes for Attorney Client privileges. Dan so moved, Mark seconded, and Chairman Kelly called for a vote. Motion carried 3/0. The meeting closed at 10:03 and opened at 10:10. No decision was made.

Ashley York, Jake Spalding, and Lynsey Alley representing the Holton/Jackson County Chamber of Commerce met with the Commissioners to request funding for Second Saturday Events and advertising. They provided the Commissioners with the 2023 calendar of events and testimonies. They have tried to create unique experiences that will draw people from outside Jackson County. Each Second Saturday will feature products from a business from one of the 3rd Class Cities in Jackson County in hopes of getting people to go to the actual business sometime. Jake stated that the focus will always be downtown Holton. Lynsey explained that the liquor license is for only for samples in the downtown area from 4:00 to 7:00 and the program needs to be art related. Jake requested \$3,000 per month in funding from the Commission. No decision was made at this time.

Lee discussed Special Meeting Notices. He requested that a sign be placed on the Commissioners door and on the Website if more than one is at a meeting, conference or viewing county property or road concerns.

Lee Hendricks assisted the Commissioners in a response to place in the Holton Recorder, Shopper and Webpage concerning solar farms.

Message from the Jackson County Commissioners to the Citizens of Jackson County: In our role as Commissioners, we try our best to read the pulse of the County as a whole. That isn't accomplished just through the comments of people attending our meetings, but also through conversations at ball games and questions we get at the store. An issue which seems to be dominating conversation currently is the Commission's approach to the prospect of a large-scale solar power project in the County. From the chatter we have heard, and the claims being made in local publications, we have found that there seems to be one common thread to the bulk of the discussion – a complete misunderstanding of the County's role and status as it relates to the prospect of such a project. In an effort to clarify that role and status the Commission wants to make a few items very clear:

- There have been claims made that the Commission might be merely “filling in the blanks” of a draft Zoning Regulations amendment provided to it. That is not the case. A draft version was provided to the County Counselor at the public hearing, but it has not been reviewed or considered by the Commission in any way. The intent of the Commission is to prepare its own amendment which best fits the needs of the County.
- Any discussion that the final version of any amended regulations will only be for the benefit of property owners in a certain area of the County is false. The very reason the Commissioners requested time to review and draft new regulations was to protect the best interests of the County as a whole, in the immediate future and over the long term.
- The Commission has been, and will continue to be, completely open in its discussions involving any regulations it considers. The Commission and its counsel are currently reviewing what has and hasn't worked in other counties and will put that information to good use in drafting Jackson County's regulations.
- Claims have been made that the Commission intends to “rush” the drafting of regulations. The Commission has repeatedly stated that it wants to take as much time as necessary to prepare the best version of these regulations. There is a great deal of additional business which requires the Commission's attention, and the preparation of these regulations will be accomplished at the same time that the Commission is attending to other County matters.
- It is not the role of the County to deem whether a business relationship between a county resident (or group of county residents) and another party will result in a viable business. The role the County plays is to ensure that regulations are in place to protect the interests of citizens.

The Commissioners appreciate that the citizens of Jackson County are invested in their community and are passionate about issues like these. We would continue to stress that the best way to avoid rumor and speculation is to contact the Commissioners by phone or email or to attend County Commission meetings.

Keith reported the Melody Matyak informed him that a not-for profit group want to speak to the public concerning solar energy. Keith may attend this meeting.

A zoom meeting will be set up next week with Rob Hartwell a lobbyist in Washington that may be able to help the Commissioners with some issues.

Keith reported on a problem with allowing John Deere to bid on equipment because of poor quality service. We have 2 new blades with attachments welded in wrong positions and we want it fix correctly. Keith wants to take Bryson Bain with him to Murphy Tractor and tell them to take the attachments off send them back and get it right. If customer service doesn't improve Jackson County will not even send a bid sheet to Murphy again.

Lunch

Dan made the motion to approve the Minutes of January 17 as corrected. Mark seconded and Chairman Kelly called for a vote. Motion carried 3/0

Dan made the motion to approve the SY60 Mini Backhoe from State Tractor. Mark seconded and Chairman Kelly called for a vote. Motion carried 3/0. PO 6878 was signed for \$74,775.

Mark made the motion to give Wetmore High School \$500 for Post Prom. Dan seconded and Chairman Kelly called for a vote. Motion carried 3/0.

Discussed Linda Jackson 2023 raise. Road and Bridge employee were to get \$1.00 per hour and all other employees got .50 per hour. The Commissioners decided to make a new position on the Road and Bridge Pay Plan for Office Manager and give Linda the \$1.00 raise.

Mark made the motion to approve the 2023 Pay Plan with the addition of Road & Bridge Office Manager. Dan seconded and Chairman Kelly called for a vote. Motion carried 3/0.

Sheriff Tim Morse and Undersheriff Scott Morris gave the Sherriff's 2022 Annual Report.

- Sheriff's position is protected in the Kansas Constitution
- Longtime Undersheriff Darrel Chapman stepped down in September for a new career. Morse stated that Darrel Chapman is one of the best skilled law enforcement officers he knows, as well as one of the very bravest there is. His departure is a giant loss to Jackson County, and he will be greatly missed.
- Scott Morris was appointed as Undersheriff. Scott is a retired Kansas Highway Patrolman and has recently served as the Captain of Patrol with Jackson County.
- Received \$213,322 in grant funding.
- Civil Process served 1,700 papers for the District Court of Jackson County, several other Kansas counties and several other states which generated \$5,895.00 in revenue.
- The sheriff's office served 810 subpoenas, 595 summons, 155 tax warrants, 63 orders to appear, 40 garnishments, 15 Protection From Abuse, 18 Citations in Contempt, 4 Notices of Hearing, 2 Ejections and 1 Writ of Execution.
- 23 Concealed carry Permits were processed for \$747.50 in revenue.
- The Special Law Enforcement Trust Fund received \$45,620.31 through the asset forfeiture procedure and purchased \$15,000.00 of tactical equipment from Spectrum Shooting. The ending balance on Dec 31, 2022 was \$36,597.06

- Retired employees Sherri Ladner and Chris Miller have returned to part time employment and help in any areas where there is a need.
- Patrol Division responded to 17,903 calls for service. These deputies vigorously patrol 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. They strive to remain visible in high-crime areas and work to keep crime rates low. The Deputies patrol an estimated half a million miles of Jackson County roadways each year.
- Jackson County has three Police Service Dogs. Sgt Travis Spiker is assigned PSD Ike, Deputy Lane Slocum assigned PSD Mate and Deputy Kendal Grim is assigned PSD Kreto.
- Tactical Response Unit is taught by highly skilled professionals and attend monthly training to maintain their skills. This Unit was created to better serve the Jackson County Community during high risk, critical incidents.
- Lowest residential burglaries in decades. Residential burglaries were in the single digits for the first time in decades. The deputies, detectives, corrections officers, and dispatchers have worked relentlessly in making this happen. Deputies spend 24 hours a day, seven days a week looking for criminals and attempt to interdict them before they strike and make our citizens victims. When criminals do strike, our detectives work tirelessly in solving those crimes and bring those suspects to justice. Corrections officer work superbly in keeping these people incarcerated and presented before the courts. Our communications team is the cement that holds all of this together, without them, we would fail at our mission.
- Communication is the central answering point for 911 calls, 911 texts and non-emergency calls. The Communications Center dispatches for five law enforcement agencies, eight fire departments and two Emergency Medical Services agencies. In 2022 the Communications Center dispatched just under 25,000 incidents.
- Jackson County Jail had 1,507 bookings in 2022. Corrections officers spend a large part of their day and night conducting on-line court appearances for inmates, attorney visits, sick call, meal passes and medication passes. They complete safety and security checks, both in and out of the pods, throughout the day and night. They are also responsible for providing the proper paperwork required by the court system, tracking when their court dates, appearances and the date and time they are to be released from serving time. The staff has picked up over 301 inmates from different counties and states this year who had warrants from the Jackson County District court. In 2022 Jackson County held inmates for the United States Marshal Service, Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation, Douglas County, Franklin County and Wyandotte County. Our out of county housing billings totaled \$844,443.
- School Defender Initiative – Deputy Romans did 117 random security spot checks of JACO schools. Provided security at eight school sporting events and two dance events. Recertified as an ALICE instructor in 2022. ALICE trained 60 Holton high school teachers and 50 Holton middle school teachers and 60 Royal Valley high school teachers. Trained 50 Royal Valley school bus drivers in Stop the Bleed. Conducted multi-agency, two-day active shooter, and bus emergency operations exercise training at Holton High School. Numerous other trainings, meetings, exercises on security.
- Sheriff Morse attended border trip with Senator Marshall and four Kansas Sheriffs.

Mark made the motion to go into executive session for a period of 10 minutes to discuss security. Dan seconded and Chairman Kelly called for a vote. Motion carried 3/0. The meeting closed at 3:05 with

Tim Morse, Scott Morris and Kathy Mick attending the executive session. The meeting opened at 3:15. No decision was made.

Received a Thank You note from Joyce Immenschuh for the County's donation to the Christmas Store.

Received a Thank You from Whiting City for the ARPA funds to help maintain their public utility service.

Received notice from NEKES that the fees would not be waived for the lagoons at Banner Creek Reservoir.

Received the 2022 annual report from the Jackson County Fair Association.

The meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m. The next meeting will be January 30, 2023.

**Board of County Commissioners
Jackson County, Kansas**

Mark Pruett, 1st District

Dan Brenner, 2nd District

Keith Kelly, 3rd District

Attest:

**Kathy Mick
Jackson County Clerk**