

## *Minutes of January 24, 2022*

The Board of County Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, January 24, 2022 at 9 a.m., Chairperson Kathrens, Commissioner Kelly and Commissioner Brenner were present. Deputy County Clerk Tara Peek recorded the minutes.

County Counselor Lee Hendricks joined the meeting. He gave an update on the ARPA final rule for counties awarded less than \$10 million. The final rule allows for counties to opt to use the lost revenue reasoning to determine the standard allowance which frees up the funds for general government services rather than the previous allowable uses of negative economic impacts, water, sewer and broadband infrastructure, Covid mitigation and premium pay. The county will continue to keep the ARPA funds separated and file documentation on the expenditures. Commissioner Kelly suggested using ARPA funds before using budgeted funds for road maintenance projects. Commissioner Brenner and Chairperson Kathrens added they would still like to assist with the water and broadband projects presented. The Board agreed to finalize their list and discuss appropriations of ARPA funding next week.

RWD #1 Greg Drinovsky joined the meeting to request ARPA funds for line replacements, backup generator and chlorine analyzers. The Board will discuss and make decisions next week.

County Counselor Lee Hendricks discussed the policy manual draft and community corrections program. Courthouse Custodian Chad Phillips joined the meeting to submit a bid to repair the attorney's office restroom. The bid from John's Repair for \$1,865.50 includes a new toilet with direct water line access and tile work.

Treasurer Linda Gerhardt joined the meeting to submit payroll changes for her department. They included three length of service increases and three promotions. She stated that she believes she has the funds in her budget to cover the additional wages. The Board stated they would discuss and let her know their decision later today. County Clerk Kathy Mick and County Counselor Lee Hendricks discussed with the Board how they have the power to control the budgets of elected officials but not the employment statuses of elected officials' employees like promotion or termination.

At 10:43 a.m. Commissioner Kelly made a motion to enter into executive session to discuss non-elected personnel for 15 minutes with Lee Hendricks and Commissioner Brenner seconded. Motion carried 3/0. Session reopened at 10:58 a.m. No action taken.

County Counselor Lee Hendricks discussed the proposed employee handbook and nuisance cases within the county he plans to take action against.

Commissioner Kelly made a motion to approve the revision to the 2022 Pay Plan to include the position title of Driver's License Administrator at the rate of \$19.50 per hour and Commissioner Brenner seconded. Motion carried 3/0. Commissioner Kelly made a motion to approve the revision to the 2022 Pay Plan to include the position title of Deputy Auto Administrator at the rate of \$19.50 per hour and Commissioner Brenner seconded. Motion carried 3/0. Commissioner Kelly made a motion to approve the revision to the 2022 Pay Plan to include the position title of Deputy County Treasurer Administrator at the rate of \$19.50 per hour and Commissioner Brenner seconded. Motion carried 3/0.

Adjourned for lunch from noon to 1 p.m.

Public Works Director Scott Kieffaber and Road and Bridge Superintendent Eric Fritz joined the meeting. Scott submitted the landfill's annual tippage and tonnage report. Scott submitted an updated roadway rehabilitation plan for 2022 through 2024 and an updated employee evaluation form. The Commissioners approved the evaluation form and Commissioner Kelly added that the conversations had with employees are the most important part of the evaluation process. Scott submitted the bids for the federal funds exchange bridge on 276 and T Roads. Bids were submitted as:

- King Construction Company Inc. \$622,968.00
- Ebert Construction Company Inc. \$682,402.00

Commissioner Kelly made a motion to approve the King Construction low bid and Commissioner Brenner seconded. Motion carried 3/0. The county will pay \$138,000.00 as their match. Scott informed the Board that he met with Verizon to discuss their products to GPS track vehicles. They estimated a cost of \$50.00 per month per vehicle. The Board asked if the GPS could be activated on the motor graders they have now and what the cost would be. Scott will inquire in the costs of the activation for 11 graders. Eric and Scott reported they will be meeting with chip seal contractor Harbour Construction later this week.

Appraiser Kate Immenschuh joined the meeting. She discussed issues with an upcoming zoning change request regarding variance constraints and special use permitting. County Counselor Lee Hendricks research amending the variance definition.

Sheriff Tim Morse and Undersheriff Darrel Chapman gave their annual report for their office. Lee asked for their recommendations for the advisory board forming for the new community corrections program.

Giant representative Austin Taylor joined the meeting to discuss the ARPA funding requests for Delia and Denison. He would like to submit for a \$723,820.00 grant where the county would contribute 50% or \$180,955.00. This would fund providing fiber to the home for the city of Denison. Austin explained that without the county fully funding the wireless tower project for Delia, Giant would not pursue that project at all. He stated he was acting on behalf of the mayors of the county and their request for ARPA funded broadband expansion in the Delia area although that is not considered a standard serving area. The company's choice is to expand fiber to the home where they can as they view it as a long-term fix to meeting the download and upload speeds needed and sometimes required. The grant submission deadline is February 11<sup>th</sup>. The Board stated they would likely make a decision next week regarding his requests.

Commissioner Kelly made a motion to approve the Soldier Fire board members as presented and Commissioner Brenner seconded. Motion carried 3/0. The board members are David Reed, Leon Freel, Julie Bahret, Ronald Parrett, Dale Reed, Leroy Rieschick and Mark Strathman.

Commissioner Brenner made a motion to approve the January 14<sup>th</sup> minutes as written and Chairperson Kathrens seconded. Motion carried 2/0. Commissioner Kelly abstained as he was absent from the meeting.

Commissioner Brenner made a motion to approve the January 18<sup>th</sup> minutes as written and Commissioner Kelly seconded. Motion carried 3/0.

Approved Change Orders 2021-106 and 107.

Received the KANZA Mental Health and Guidance Center, Inc. income statement for 2021.

Signed the following Purchase Orders:

Department	PO #	To	For	Amount
Custodial	6862	John's Repair	Attorney restroom	\$1,865.50

Signed the following payroll change notices:

Department	Name	From	To	Reason	Date / /
Sheriff	Jose Martinez	\$	\$19.75 per hour	Rehired FT	01/20/2022
Road and Bridge	Nancy Schlodder	\$	\$16.82 per hour	temporary	01/19/2022
Environmental Services	Stephen Wagner	\$16.64 per hour	\$17.17 per hour	Introductory period complete	12/25/2021
Treasurer	Sarah Mitchell	\$15.79 per hour	\$16.31 per hour	Length of service increase	01/25/2022
Treasurer	Charlene Funk	\$15.79 per hour	\$16.31 per hour	Length of service increase	01/25/2022
Treasurer	Shannon Boeckman	\$16.31 per hour	\$16.82 per hour	Length of service increase	01/25/2022
Treasurer	Lori Mellenbruch	\$17.89 per hour	\$19.50 per hour	Promotion	01/25/2022
Treasurer	Jami Phillips	\$17.89 per hour	\$19.50 per hour	Promotion	01/25/2022
Treasurer	Lisa Miller	\$17.89 per hour	\$19.50 per hour	Promotion	01/25/2022

The meeting adjourned at 4:19 p.m. The next Commission meeting will be Monday, January 31, 2022 at 9:00 a.m.

Board of County Commissioners  
Jackson County, Kansas

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Ed Kathrens, 1<sup>st</sup> District

Attest:

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Kathy Mick  
Jackson County Clerk

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Dan Brenner, 2<sup>nd</sup> District

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Keith Kelly, 3<sup>rd</sup> District

