

Minutes of January 10, 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.

Mark made the motion to approve the minutes of January 23, 2023 as written. Dan seconded and Chairman Kelly called for a vote. Motion carried 3/0.

The Commissioners had a Zoom meeting with Rob Hartwell, in Virginia and Ernie Gonzales in Tennessee who are consultants in Washington DC. The Commissioners are interested in ongoing Federal assistance for lost tax revenue due to land within the reservation and outside the reservation being taken off the tax role and put into USA Trust. Keith stated that the tribe is willing to sign a letter of support. Rob estimated his consulting fee would be around \$100,000. Rob will get back with the Commissioners with a proposal and ideas on how to approach this issue. No decision was made by the Commissioners.

The Commissioners reviewed the Alcohol Tax Statute 79-41a04 and determined that these funds could not be used to help with funding the Chamber of Commerce's Second Saturday Events.

Lee checked on the issue on the audit for the accusation of property for a bridge project. Lee requested that the Commissioners make a motion to ratify the purchase decision by the Commissioners to offer to Henry & Carol Richter of \$660 for permanent and \$20 for Temporary Easement in September of 2021. Dan so moved, Keith seconded, Keith called for a vote to ratify the minutes, Motion carried 2/0. Mark abstained from voting.

A check will be issued in the amount of \$21 for additional payment for the permanent easement received from Henry & Carol Richter.

Jackson County Rural Water District #1 representative Greg Drinovsky met to thank the Commissioners for the ARPA funding of \$50,000 that they used for line improvements for 102 & Y Road. He has also provided plans to Road and Bridge for water at the Hoyt strip. They will need a 1 1/2 water line.

Mark made the motion to approve the ROZ resolution2023-07. Dan seconded and Chairman Kelly called for a vote. Motion carried 3/0. This allows employers the opportunity to sponsor applicants for student loan repayments up to \$15,000. Jackson County does not allocate any funds towards this program matching payments but adopts the program so other employers can.

Lee stated that he is contacting the Cities and School that have entered the inter local agreement of Resolution 2018-14 to notify them of the County wanting to correct the resolution and not have it be Countywide.

Kate informed the Commissioners that the Zoning Commissioners would like to be kept in the loop of what is going with the Zoning Regulations concerning the Solar Farms. Lee stated that he has been speaking to other counties and is still making calls. He has not made any recommendations yet to the Commissioners. A county citizen, not NextEra, gathered information from several counties and made a document that was given to Lee. The only contact Lee has had with NextEra was a conversation concerning flooding and water runoff. NextEra provided documents that showed it would be an improvement not a detriment. The next Zoning meeting will be February 9th and Keith Kelly will attend the meeting and explain to them that nothing has happened yet, and they will keep the Zoning Commissioners informed when it does.

Roger Hower met with the Commissioners upon their request to explain the creation of the NE KS Environmental Service Department. Roger stated the best he could remember back in 1998 there were no standards to go by or inspections so NEKES was hired with an inspector, Dennis Foster. Keith stated now if you have property, it is \$300 for NEKES to inspect it and that is more than you have to pay the guy that pumps it out. Roger said there are things done like soil profiles, measure soil absorption will accommodate a lagoon or laterals to also determine size. Keith stated rentals have to be inspected in between renters if there is a time laps between. Shawnee County charges \$50. Roger stated it is a fee-based program. Jackson County pays a\$10,000 to NEKES for the program. Out at Banner Creek Lake they did no digging for soil samples, paperwork only. Roger stated without enforcement, only people that voluntarily follow county regulations will do what you want. There will be no teeth to make them. Keith asked What is Shawnee County doing different that they charge \$50 and Jackson County residents pay \$300.00? Roger said it would be the quantity of inspections. Jackson County has 86 in 2022, 77 in 2021 and 67 in 2022. The Commissioners thanked Roger for coming and explaining the process to them.

Kurt Zibell reported that everything has been worked out with the mower. He now has it in his possession.

Kurt reported that he tried to get bids from Swab & Eaton, Cook Flatt and Strobel and BG Engineering. The only one that submitted a bid was Swab & Eaton, so they will be designing the plan to get rid of the pump stations and switch over to the lagoons. We will use these plans to go out for construction bids. Lee reviewed the contract and again explained the Limitation of Liability clause. It doesn't hurt anyone in this case so it is okay to sign, but if it was a bridge being built we wouldn't sign it. Companies cannot advertise they have 2,000,000 in insurance and the have the contract put a limit on it. Keith signed the proposal.

Dan made a motion to pay Schwab & Eaton \$9,850 to engineer the plans for the building and switching over the pump stations to lagoons. Mark seconded and Chairman Kelly called for a vote. Motion carried 3/0.

Kurt reported that the land leveler has been delivered and is working good.

Kurt reported that he is sure local contractors are interested in bidding the building project.

Plans are being drawn up for ceilings, which are vaulted. Kurt plans on requesting bids in March.

Recessed for lunch.

Jackson County's IT Director Tim Blevins met with the Commissioner to renew his contract. Tim increased his hourly rate to \$75 per hour and nothing else changed in the contract. But Tim requested that the Commissioner make sure all department heads appointed and elected be given a copy of his contract so they know they must have him review all contract and equipment purchase that tie into the current network. This excludes the Sheriff's Department and County Attorney Department; they have their own systems.

Kate Immenschuh informed the Commissioners that she sent out 6 letters concerning Neighborhood Revitalization Act and 6 people that were disqualified for some reason.

Kathy Mick has a bill from Civics Plus, the first year it was paid out of ARPA funding. Kathy asked what fund it should come out of now. The Commissioners stated Capital Outlay-Commissioners Misc.

Scott Kieffaber discussed the compensatory time is confusing to his employees. This turned into a Semi-Monthly payroll vs. Every other Friday payrolls.

This week projects;

- 2 Pipes on T4

- Boom Mower on T4

- Mowing shoulders in areas 6 & 10

- C-270 to 286 rock

- X Road 183-190 Rocking & Patching

Future planning:

- T4 Project

- 118 and I ditching

- 262 and J fix ditch and rock

Pallet Racks installed - pumps & generator off the floor now.

Start working on what they can on the Semi's that need rebuilt.

Met with John Deere - hopefully made headway on getting better service.

Found a salt spreader in Paola Spring Dale Mo for approximately \$3,800.

Scott Kieffaber will be hosting the NE Ks Weed Directors on February 15th.

Scott also reported the last 5-years of tons of recycling by category.

Jeff Morrow met with the Commissioners to provide Kevin Hills reply concerning KPERS.

The meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m. The next meeting will be February 6, 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