

Minutes of February 13, 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.

Scott Kieffaber presented the Noxious Weed Annual Report.

Scott presented two Electricity bids.

Riley Electric, Inc. \$8,820.00 includes City of Holton electric service connection fee.

Chris McManigal \$8,820.00 City of Holton electric service connection fee is not included.

Tabled until later.

Mike Rowe called concerning the Circleville bridge project. It will be published in the 15th & 22nd papers and bids will be opened on February 27th at 10:00. Mike will notify the 3 contractors that have shown interest in local projects, of the updated bid opening date.

Scott provided a Chip and Seal project list to be reviewed for next week's meeting.

The mulch head is being demonstrated at O & 238th road at 1:00 p.m. today.

Moved the bridge beams from the bridge yard to Hoffman Brother's Fabrication to be used in the new building.

Wade discussed Tim Grossnickle's fence and the 50 ft road right of way. The current fence appears to be 10 feet on the road right of way. Lee Hendricks said this fence is of non-conforming use, it can be repaired but if it is being replaced it needs to be moved to the correct location. If he puts it back in the same place, he needs to know that if the County needs to get to something, and the fence is in the way, his fence is coming down and he will have to put it back at his expense.

The Commissioners reviewed the updated contract terms from Rob Hartwell from Hartwell Capitol Consulting, LLC. They agreed that they feel it is extremely important that the County look into the issue of recompense for lost property tax revenues, now and especially in future years. The revised contract narrowed the terms of Hartwell's representation to purely working with the County to meet with legislators and others in Washington DC and Topeka to find solutions to this tax loss issue. The Commissioners agreed that this is an issue which must be addressed and someone with Mr. Hartwell's experience and connections was the best way to do so. They discussed that it is important that they

deal with this issue now so that future County Commissions aren't continually faced with a shrinking tax base while the demand for County services will only increase. The matter was tabled to the February 21, 2023 meeting to allow the County Counselor to review the revised agreement from Hartwell Capitol Consulting, LLC.

Planning and Zoning Administrator Kate Immenschuh met with the Commissioners to discuss what happened at the last Zoning meeting. Chairman Kelly had said he would come to the next meeting to answer any question the Planning and Zoning Board had concerning the Solar Farms rumors going around. The County Commissioners have done nothing and had no contact with NextEra since the public hearing. But multiple people showed up to the Planning and Zoning meeting and turned it into a solar meeting. Discussed how the Zoning Chairman could have shut the questions down from people not on the agenda. Keith was there only to answer questions from the Planning and Zoning Board.

The Commissioners discussed the issue of an advisory election. Mark stated that the southern portion wants an election, but the rest of the county say that the Commissioners were elected to represent the County and make those decisions. Dan stated that the outcome of the election is not binding and question if we would we get representation from the whole county. People have told Keith it is too big of a decision for three people to make. An advisory election will be costly. Keith questions the legitimacy of the election, he talked to people and asked if they would show up to the election and they said no. County Counselor Lee Hendricks informed the Commissioners that it is his advice to absolutely not hold an advisory election, for several reasons. It's only advisory, turn out will not be full representative of the feelings, cost of the election and the Commissioners were given the duty to make these decisions and they need to do it. The Commissioners agreed that they would not hold an advisory election.

Dan made the motion to go into executive session for a period of 20 minutes to discuss contract negotiations. Mark seconded and Chairman Kelly called for a vote. Motion carried 3/0. The meeting closed at 10:27, extended 13 minutes and opened at 11:00. No decisions were made.

Kurt Zibell informed the Commissioners that the plans have been finalize. The plans should be ready for the Commissioners to review next week.

The water out flow rates for the sewer system will require a 1,500 gallon tank.

Kurt also wants to replace the north door with garage doors.

Dan made the motion to go into executive session for a period of 13 minutes to discuss contract negotiation. Mark seconded and Chairman Kelly called for a vote. Motion carried 3/0. The meeting closed at 11:47 and opened at Noon. No decisions were made.

Recessed for lunch.

Dan made the motion to sign Tim Blevins IT contract. Mark seconded and Chairman Kelly called for a vote. Motion carried 3/0.

Atchison County Commissioners Eric Noel visited with the Commissioners.

Suzette McCord-Rogers met with the Commissioners and informed them of the Delia Mural through Rural Prosperity and that Governor Kelly plan on a tour to see over 40 Muriel and Holton's will be included. Suzette has applied for a \$7,500 grant. At Circleville on Barbara Hutchins building will be the Barnes Brothers. In 2024 Suzette will apply for a \$10,000 grant for the Whiting area featuring "The Great White Way". Poles along the route were painted white and auto tourists were encouraged to travel following the white posts from Chicago to Colorado Springs. Suzette is also writing a grant for the Historical Society and would like a letter of support to State tourism, from the County Commissioners. Suzette will draft a letter and the Commissioners will sign it next Tuesday.

The Commissioners requested that Suzette not wait until all the murals are finished to place a QR code on them. The Commissioners would like to see how many people are visiting the murals and where they are coming from.

Lois Pelton an ex-County Commissioner has been cleaning out her basement and brought a box of papers for the Commissioners to go through to see if they wanted any of her documents.

Mark after reviewing the bids for electric work that the amounts were exactly the same at \$8,820 made the motion to go with Riley Electric because the connection to Holton electricity was included. Dan seconded and Chairman Kelly called for a vote. Motion carried 3/0.

The Commissioners denied the request from United Way, to donate funds, to expand the Junior Leader Reader program to Jackson County because it only included 1 school instead of all 3 districts.

Mark made the motion to give Royal Valley's After Prom \$1,000. Dan seconded and Chairman Kelly called for a vote. Motion carried 3/0.

Signed added and abates 122 128-130.

County Clerk Kathy Mick reported that she has been working with Grant Writer Lisa Hyten and all the previous year grants are closed out and the Sheriff's office is starting a new grant that will pay 37.5% of two investigator's salaries for 2023.

Received a Thank You from the Silver hair Legislature for the \$250 donation.

Dan made the motion to adopt Resolution 2023-08 a Zoning Change for Rebecca Parrett to R-R, Rural Residential in Section 18 Twp 9 Rang 16. Mark seconded, and Chairman Kelly called for a vote. Motion carried 3/0.

Dan made a motion to appoint Mark Pruettt to the Multi County Health Board. Keith seconded and called for a vote. Motion carried 2/0. Mark abstained.

Approved expenditures and payroll for February 15th.

The meeting adjourned at 3:25 p.m. The next meeting will be Tuesday, February 21 at 9:00.

Signed the following payroll change notices:

Department	Name	From	To	Reason	Date / /
Road	Lonnie Morfit				
Sher	Travis Spiker	25.38	25.38	To Investigations	2/10/2023
Road	Leanard Dachesneau	14.96	0	Seasonal worker	2/9/2023

Signed the following Purchase Orders:

Department	PO #	To	For	Amount
ARPA	6811	Eisenbarth Const	3620 Sq ft Conc	31,640.

Board of County Commissioners
Jackson County, Kansas

Mark Pruettt, 1st District

Attest:

Dan Brenner, 2nd District

Kathy Mick
Jackson County Clerk

Keith Kelly, 3rd District