

Minutes of April 25, 2022

The Board of County Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, April 25, 2022 at 9 a.m., Chairperson Kathrens, Commissioner Kelly and Commissioner Brenner were present. Deputy County Clerk Tara Peek recorded the minutes.

KWORCC Loss Prevention Specialist and Marketing Director Jes Pfannenstiel joined the meeting to award the county with a second place Exceptional Loss Ratio for 2020 for the category larger than a \$100,000.00 premium. Chairperson Kathrens accepted the award on the county's behalf.

Road and Bridge Superintendent Eric Fritz and Public Works Director Scott Kieffaber joined the meeting. They requested purchasing approval upon looking at a prospective tractor. Commissioner Kelly made a motion to give purchasing power to Scott Kieffaber for a 2021 John Deere 6105E tractor with loader up to \$83,500.00 and Commissioner Brenner seconded. Motion carried 3/0. The prospective tractor, if purchased, will be funded from ARPA and will replace the tractor damaged by the grass fire. They reported that crews have started tearing out the bridge on I Road. A contractor will be coming on Thursday to start on the install. Scott asked for approval to move forward with the 80/20 state and county split for a bridge near Circleville. Commissioner Brenner made a motion to approve the bridge contract and to begin seeking bids. Commissioner Kelly seconded and motion carried 3/0. Eric stated that they are ready for dust control on 142 Road. They have prepared it by blading, watering and rolling last week. He would like to use a quarter rate for this route's dust control. Chairperson Kathrens reported that a stop sign was down north of 254 Road on the east side of Circleville. Road and Bridge will take care of it. Commissioner Brenner passed on compliments for the work done on the road for the Banner Observatory and other surrounding roads. Chairperson Kathrens suggested purchasing a stockpile of rock from the Hamm Soldier Quarry. Holton Recorder reporter Ali Holcomb joined the meeting.

Developmental Services of Jackson County Executive Director Laura Golden and Finance Director Liz Lewis joined the meeting to request funding for the 2023 year and also for their building remodel. Laura reported that they had not received any BASE grant funding to help with the costs for furnishing for their building as requested. Laura explained that their agency receives 90% of its funding through state insurance programs by serving people with intellectual developmental disabilities. They provide home and community-based programs including vocational, life skills, residential, employment and day program services to 24 Jackson County residents. They also have a waiting list. They submitted their budget, describing it as conservative and pointed out a \$130,000.00 deficit for furnishings needed and replacement vehicles. The building remodel is included in the budget as financed through Denison State Bank. They anticipate the renovation being complete in June. Commissioner Brenner asked if they had requested ARPA funding from the City of Holton and they had not. Laura stated that they did receive some PPP funds in 2020 but did not qualify for any other grant programs. Commissioner Kelly asked if they had sought funding through other lenders and Laura stated that their board did and the board

made the final decision as well. They are requesting \$130,000.00 for 2023. Currently they receive \$30,541.00 in appropriated funds from the County.

Chamber Director Ashlee York joined the meeting to discuss a dairy production facility that sought information on the county as a prospective future facility site. Ashlee brought information on the properties she was able to locate on LOIS, an economic development database, that had not been updated since 2010. The company requested site photos and utility resources that would be needed to pursue the county. Ashlee had acquired a profile example from another county as a guide to outline the suitability of the county to potential businesses. Commissioner Kelly asked whose responsibility it is to maintain LOIS and the county's profile. Ashlee explained that she is willing to assist with these requests but suggested the county look for someone to do economic development to meet the county needs. RWD #3 Manager Brenda Adkins joined the meeting to report that currently their water district does not have the capacity to meet this company's needs for water. Ashlee stated she could ask local realtors for guidance on any land for sale.

Banner Lake Director Kurt Zibell joined the meeting. He reported that they have been prepping for the plumber to come and replace all the faucets and hardware. The epoxy work has been completed on all the showers. He expects the new mower to be delivered this week. Grassroots Pest Control owner Roger Collins joined the meeting to ask about the bid process for pest control at the lake this year. He stated that in the past he has always renewed his contract every year. The Board explained that as stewards of county tax funds, they have a responsibility to seek bids and secure services that are cost appropriate. They had requests from other local pest control businesses to submit bids. Roger explained that as a regular camper of Banner Lake, he treats other campers, trees and the shower houses while he is there at no cost to the county. Kurt stated he is waiting for one more bid to come in before the Board reviews them and makes a decision.

Royal Valley Superintendent Aaric Davis submitted a letter for requesting 2023 funds for the Jackson County Communities That Care Coalition. They have requested \$15,000.00.

NEK Enterprise Facilitation's Teresa McAnerney, Ashlee York, Mark Aeschliman and Jonathan Wimer joined the meeting. Teresa described her program as a non-profit providing free and confidential business advice to a five-county region since 2003. Commissioner Brenner asked Teresa about marketing for the county and she explained that her main focus was business startups. Ashlee added that she sends people to Teresa for guidance in operating local businesses, noting that there is no other resource besides NEK Enterprise Facilitation. Mark added that she has assisted with the newly revived Jackson County Community Foundation and he strongly encourages support for her program as he feels housing and small businesses are the greatest asset to the county tax base. Mark stated he moved from Nemaha County where they have a very strong industrial business park that supports their county tax base. Teresa stated that she has received a three-year commitment from the Nemaha County BOCC to support her program. Jonathan added that as a Planning Commission board member he has referred people seeking zoning changes to use Teresa's resources in helping them start a new business in the county. Mark spoke to the need of having an economic development director or program to assist the county. The Board expressed an interest in a part time or as needed position. Teresa added that she knows someone who provides economic development services by contract rather than a full-time position. Jonathan suggested adding another industrial park with larger parcels. Teresa submitted data

that showed 1,036 introductions, 280 clients, 60 new, expanded or retained businesses, 222 jobs created and 44 tune ups of existing businesses for Jackson County. NEK Enterprise Facilitation did not receive any funding in 2022. In 2021 they received a \$12,000.00 appropriation.

Adjourned for lunch from noon to 1 p.m.

Jackson County Conservation District Manager Brian Boeckman and board members William Conley and George Phillips joined the meeting to request funding for 2023. They are requesting a \$3,000.00 increase, totaling \$65,000.00.

At 1:11 p.m. Commissioner Kelly made a motion to enter into executive session with Lee Hendricks to discuss personnel/discipline and Commissioner Brenner seconded. Motion carried 3/0. Session reopened at 1:30 p.m. No action taken. At 1:32 p.m. Commissioner Brenner made a motion to enter into executive session with Lee Hendricks to discuss personnel/discipline and Commissioner Kelly seconded. Motion carried 3/0. Session reopened at 1:50 p.m. No action taken. At 2 p.m. Commissioner Brenner made a motion to enter into executive session with Lee Hendricks and Chad Phillips to discuss personnel and Commissioner Kelly seconded. Motion carried 3/0. Session reopened at 2:17 p.m. Commissioner Kelly made a motion to place Chad Phillips on non-paid administrative leave for two weeks starting immediately and he will also need to submit an apology to court personnel. Commissioner Brenner seconded and motion carried 3/0.

At 2:27 p.m. Commissioner Kelly made a motion to enter into executive session for attorney client privilege with Lee Hendricks and Commissioner Brenner seconded. Motion carried 3/0. Session reopened at 2:45 p.m. No action taken.

Youth Services Director Brooke Smith joined the meeting to submit grant paperwork for approval. Brooke discussed the Immediate Intervention Program and how her program works with County Attorneys to eliminate juvenile misdemeanor cases from court case loads and expenses. She discussed the use of the Kansas Detention Assessment Instrument that is used for determining the need for confinement based on public safety, etc. She stated that she could override the tool but cannot override mandatory detention. The Board approved her grant paperwork.

Commissioner Brenner made a motion to approve the April 11th minutes as written and April 18th minutes as amended. Commissioner Kelly seconded and motion carried 3/0. Commissioner Kelly made a motion to approve the April 15th minutes as written and Commissioner Brenner seconded. Motion carried 3/0.

Reviewed two parcels (83 and 80 acres) that were placed into U.S.A Trust by the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation.

Received a thank you from the JHHS Post Prom signed by attendees.

Approved Change Orders 178 through 185.

Signed the following payroll change notices:

| Department | Name | From | To | Reason | Date / / |
|------------|--------------|------|------------------|----------|-------------|
| Sheriff | Ryan Pickens | \$ | \$19.00 per hour | Hired FT | 04/25/2022 |
| Sheriff | Kyle Scott | \$ | \$19.79 per hour | Hired FT | 04/26/2022 |

The meeting adjourned at 4:02 p.m. The next Commission meeting will be Monday, May 2, 2022 at 9:00 a.m.

Board of County Commissioners
Jackson County, Kansas

Ed Kathrens, 1st District

Attest:

Dan Brenner, 2nd District

Kathy Mick
Jackson County Clerk

Keith Kelly, 3rd District