

Minutes of May 23, 2022

The Board of County Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, May 23, 2022 at 9 a.m., Chairperson Kathrens, Commissioner Kelly and Commissioner Brenner were present. Deputy County Clerk Tara Peek recorded the minutes.

Public Works Director Scott Kieffaber and Road and Bridge Superintendent Eric Fritz joined the meeting. They submitted tube bids as follows:

- Contech \$19,135.00
- Welborn Sales \$20,571.50

Commissioner Kelly made a motion to approve the Contech bid for \$19,135.00 and Commissioner Brenner seconded. Motion carried 3/0. Eric and Scott reported that they have estimated that the costs for getting rock from the Hamm Quarry in Grantville is about \$110.00 less per load than from the Denison Quarry, including fuel costs. They will be hauling from Grantville for the southern areas of the county. Scott reported that the office has received 289 calls this year so far and 227 of those concerns have been addressed. They have arranged to purchase water from RWD #3 for \$5.95 per 1,000 gallons needed to fix 254 Road where NextEra's haul route was. Scott discussed issues with residents stopping grader operators while they are to be working to complain about road issues. He has advised his employees to refer patrons to the office for reporting concerns and continue to focus on maintaining the roads. The I Road bridge has stringers in and will be piling the south side soon. They have completed hauling rock to the lake for its access roadways. Submitted skid steer bids as follows:

- White Star \$39,984.37 for T770 T4 Bobcat Compact Track Loader 92 HP (includes \$35,000.00 trade in for 2017 Bobact T770)
- Foley Caterpillar \$40,625.90 for Cat 299D3 Compact Track Loader 98 HP (includes \$37,000.00 trade in for 2017 Bobact T770)

Commissioner Kelly requested to table a decision until they could get more information on the "materials and logistics" charges on the White Star Bobcat bid. They discussed reapplying dust control on F Road for the haul route as they put the first application on too light. Scott reported that at the landfill Ed has made progress cleaning up the shop and taking care of the scrap metal. At the recycling department he wanted to commend Steve for his work efforts.

Commissioner Brenner made a motion to approve a local cash match for NEKAAA's Older Americans Act programs for \$2,102.00 and Commissioner Kelly seconded. Motion carried 3/0.

At 9:59 a.m. Commissioner Kelly made a motion to enter into executive session for 10 minutes to discuss personnel and Commissioner Brenner seconded. Motion carried 3/0. Session reopened at 10:07 a.m. No action taken.

Commissioner Kelly made a motion to approve \$2,500.00 from the alcohol tax funds to Netawaka Athletic Club and Commissioner Brenner seconded. Motion carried 3/0.

County Clerk Kathy Mick discussed the first budget draft with the Board. She used the utilities figures from last year as she has not yet received the current values. She should be getting them June 1st.

NEK Multi County Health Department nurse Amy Matthias joined the meeting to seek approval to purchase a storage shed with leftover funds they have to use by June. They are planning to buy a garden shed to store the Covid tent and other supplies. The Board gave their approval and suggested she check with City of Holton code enforcement for the placement. She also reported some HVAC issues. The Board asked her to get a couple bids for repairing the system to present. Commissioner Brenner asked about Covid cases in the community. Amy stated that they are starting to have some requests for testing and a few positives.

Banner Lake Director Kurt Zibell joined the meeting. Kurt reported that he is needing to have a survey done to locate his sewer line that runs to the City of Holton. He has met with NEKES Pat Toby in regards to plans for adding lagoons. He still needs to meet with NRCS. Kurt has made arrangements with Ice Masters to lease an ice machine to use through the season. He will be getting a second cooler to sell ice on the south side also. The lake has been full of campers for a week and will be through Memorial weekend. Kurt requested to purchase a fuel tank for gasoline to use for the mowers. The county will have it filled with whoever is awarded the monthly fuel bid. Kurt reported that he was able to get a gasoline lawn mower rather than waiting for the diesel one he ordered. It has the same size deck and the cost was less. He is looking to trade in another mower if he can find another new one that meets his specs. Kurt discussed the community building and the bids will be due the 27th. Chairperson Kathrens will be doing the lagoon work as an in kind donation. Kurt reported that his roadways have been rocked by Road and Bridge and he would like to have a full rate of dust control applied. He stated he will be moving the trash trailers.

County Attorney Shawna Miller joined the meeting to discuss the contract with Attorney Kevin Hill for CINC cases. She was originally planning to terminate his contract for 2023 but with the changes in staffing following her resignation she has decided to leave that decision to the incoming County Attorney. The contract has a November 1, 2022 deadline if they choose to terminate otherwise it will auto renew.

Custodian Jerry Mencl reported that Samco had installed a condensation pump in the Attorney's office to eliminate the leaking issues.

Adjourned for lunch from noon to 1 p.m.

Techs, Inc. owners Brent Teter and Jay Watkins along with Con Olson and Medical Director Dr. Heyns joined the meeting to discuss their EMS proposal. They expressed their dedication to the county as they have been operating their business here for over 22 years and have been raised in the community. They also have provided services to Osage and Nemaha counties since 2013 and helped build an EMS program in Atchison four years ago. In 2018 they began a contract with the VA to provide transfer services to other hospitals. They also have an industrial medicine program where they provide staffing to large employers and a secured transport service. Their proposal was for one year, but they are willing to discuss a multi-year option. Chairperson Kathrens expressed interest in spreading the second truck's 64 hours out throughout the week rather than leaving them to be used at Techs, Inc.'s discretion. Commissioner Brenner had questions about standbys on scenes that there is not an imminent threat. Jay explained that there has been an expectation that they will be there to provide aid if needed to volunteer firefighters or other first responders. Chairperson Kathrens asked what the costs would be if

they agreed to a multi-year contract. Brent stated that he would want to use some form of inflationary gauge to determine a fair but marginal index. They stated that they have complete confidence in their team and that they have followed all commitments every year of their contracts. They employ around 80 people and have close resources to staff emergencies as needed. They reported that they have began a patient advocacy outreach program to help identify resources for people which will help reduce the call volume. Commissioner Kelly asked of they had any telehealth programs. Con stated that they are getting involved with community paramedicine. Dr. Heyns wanted to add that as a Stormont Vail ER physician, his opinion of the Techs, Inc. employees is that they are top notch, more knowledgeable than some of the local EMTS and very professional.

County resident Verlin Wichman joined the meeting to voice concerns for secondary ditches that have been formed by the grading on 238 Road in front of his house. He wanted to thank Road and Bridge for their completion of replacing a marker on a nearby culvert but needed to report the issues he has with the work that was done that was not needed on his road.

Register of Deeds Tammy Moulden requested ARPA funding to scan records prior to 1987 so they can be viewed through their subscription services. Currently they charge \$300.00 plus the cost for copies. This year they have 20 subscriptions. The bid was for \$125,349.96 from US Imaging Inc. to complete the scanning process from 1858 to 1987. Commissioner Kelly asked if they did this scanning project, would there still be a need for book repairs or if the books can be closed and stored away. Tammy stated that the digitized records are a lifetime investment and that the books would be used less but some people will likely still come in to turn the pages of the books. Commissioner Kelly requested two additional bids for the large scan project and also the cost of purchasing the scanning equipment.

Appraiser Kate Immenschuh joined the meeting to submit documents for review from her recent zoning and appeals meetings. She and Lee discussed a draft resolution he formed to handle nuisance issues.

Commissioner Brenner made a motion to approve the courthouse renovation using the population-based figures decided by the 2nd Judicial District Community Corrections board and Commissioner Kelly seconded. Motion carried 3/0. The estimated share for Jackson County is \$19,204.08.

Global Medical Response Regional Director Jon Antrim joined the meeting to discuss his EMS proposal. He stated that for Jackson County they would be setting up a business unit in itself, not based outside of the county. They are looking for potential building options within the county and their preference would be in Holton as they have the largest call volume. Jon explained that they always send standby units for structure fires to assess the firefighters. They offer both dedicated and undedicated standbys for schools, depending on what the school wants. He stated that his company invests in their people, offering schooling and upward mobility where they can work nationwide. The starting salary for an EMT is \$38,000.00 and \$54,000.00 for a Paramedic. They would offer emergency medical dispatch training for the Sheriff's dispatchers so they can determine emergency or non-emergency response for improving efficiency. They would like to collaborate with mutual aid from surrounding counties and tribal EMS. Jon stated that they recently implemented Nurse Navigation in Shawnee County to reduce EMS responses and also offer air and ground memberships for \$65.00 per year for a household to cover costs that insurance does not cover if transported. When asked about multi-year contract options he stated that they typically do a 3% increase per year to cover the annual costs for employee raises. He

was also asked about the cost to add the SUV option and he said they can add it to any option they choose. He will be getting them a cost estimate and a standard contract format.

Approved Change Orders 2021-199 through 201.

At 4:18 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 4:28 p.m. Commissioner Kelly made a motion to set the incoming County Attorney's annual salary between \$75,000.00 and \$90,000.00 based on experience and Commissioner Brenner seconded. Motion carried 3/0.

Signed the following Purchase Orders:

Department	PO #	To	For	Amount
Road and Bridge	6794	Contech	tubes	\$19,135.00

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m. The next Commission meeting will be Tuesday, May 31, 2022 at 9:00 a.m.

Board of County Commissioners
Jackson County, Kansas

Ed Kathrens, 1st District

Dan Brenner, 2nd District

Keith Kelly, 3rd District

Attest:

Kathy Mick
Jackson County Clerk