

Minutes of August 8th, 2023

Chairman Kelly called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Commissioner Mark A. Pruett and Dan Brenner were present. County Counselor Lee Hendricks was also present. County Clerk Kristie Richter recorded the minutes. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Commissioner Brenner shared with the Board that the Brown County Commissioner's weren't sure they were going to act on the grant for area on aging but appears it will. Meals on wheels update: Jackson county now has served the most meals of the surrounding Counties.

Matt Fritz, Bridge Foreman, with Road and Bridge met with the Commissioners to give the weekly road report, Superintendent Wade Cormier was absent.

COMPLETED LAST WEEK 31 JUL-4 AUG 23

Little progress on S road and 110 Rd projects

Patched E Rd

Some rock J -262-268

Signing

Finished, 254 L1 tube

THIS WEEK 7-11 AUG 23

Patching 254

Finish J Rock and Start I 262-270

Dig up pad spots on the 94th fill with rock

Continue projects, 110, S Rd

Mowing chip seal roads

FUTURE PLANNING

S 142-166 project/110 N-K project

254 Bridge

Public Works Director Scott Kiefabber met with the Commissioners to give his weekly update: Scott reported that they have only had 5 or so people come into the landfill with the new hours. He would like to go back to 8-4 next year. The Commissioners agreed.

In the winter time Scott would like to be closed on Saturdays at Noxious Weed. He said they don't have the people in to justify being open. The Commissioners left the decision up to Scott. Roll off at landfill increased in price to \$130.00 per container thru Hamms.

The new mower is in, Scott said it's a nice heavy machine. Some adjustments were made to make it cut smoother. Matt checked the electric fence at C and 270, it is in the right of way but not in the way of the County. Commissioner Kelly reported that he spoke with Mr. Tipton, with Soldier Township, about 94th Road. They do not wish to take it over; therefore the County will patch what holes are in the road and do the best repairs possible. Scott presented the Commissioners with a proposal for Road Stabilization and Dust Control. He believes that dust control would be double the cost of grading the roads. There are benefits to having dust control on the roads that are highly traveled. Scott looked at the disk at Atchison, he doesn't think it will do what they are wanting it to do.

Commissioner Pruett told Road and Bridge that the road by Lynn Rieschick needs attention on 246th road. The old highway on 246 to S has potholes and its cutting into the ditches. 254th Road by Wells, hole is getting deep. Commissioners would like them to look at these roads and get them repaired.

County Appraiser Kate Immenschuh met with the Commissioners. She had a pay increase for Justin Fitzhenry for the Commissioners to sign and she also proposed a retention pay scale that included longevity and incentive pay for all County Employees. Kate also had a gentleman in her office yesterday that has been paying taxes on a piece of property in Delia, KS that he doesn't believe he owns and has asked what the County can do to help him. Basically, there should have been some title work done that would have caught the error in the deed work. Kate will revert the piece in question back to the original owner. Kate will call the gentleman and let him know the Commissioners decision.

County Counselor Lee Hendricks discussed the proposed solar provisions with the Commissioners. Zoning Director Kate Immenschuh was also present for the discussion.

County Counselor Lee Hendricks discussed with the Commissioners the new neighborhood revitalization program and what the next steps are.

Paycom has not responded to Lee's Letter for reimbursement for the IRS penalty.

Reviewed a letter from Joseph Strong on the possible solar project.

The Commissioners decided to change the trash service to Martin Trash Service. The Commissions agree to pay the billed amount from Waste Management if the trash bins are picked up by Aug. 31st, 2023. The County will start trash service with Martin Trash on Sept. 1, 2023. This will be a significant savings for the County.

Commissioner Pruett made the motion to vacate T road south of 270th, Commissioner Brenner 2nd the motion. The motion passed 3/0.

Commissioner Brenner made the motion to go into executive session for attorney client privilege for 5 minutes, Commissioner Pruett 2nd the motion, the motion passed 3/0. This included County Counselor Lee Hendricks and County Clerk Kristie Richter. No decisions were made.

Signed the following right of way petitions:

Terry Huss new driveway entrance T Rd

Telcom bore for copper cable U4 Rd

Giant Communications fiber cable Y Rd

Commissioner Brenner made the motion to recess for lunch, Commissioner Pruett 2nd the motion. The motion carried 3/0.

Chairman Kelly called the meeting back to order at 1:00pm

Banner Lake Director Kurt Zibell met with the Commissioners to give his weekly update. Kurt has started looking for a replacement for Bobby and Dianne Levick at the Lake. They have been Park Hosts for several years for the County. He has talked to a couple that is interested in the job.

Randy is planning on staying on for the south side park host.

The Commissioner discussed possible solar panels at Banner Lake to help generate power. Kurt said he isn't opposed to it if there is a grant available, but he doesn't want to take up a lot of land or take away from the beauty of the lake.

Kurt reported that there haven't been many problems with the new online system. He said he thinks people are still learning to use the program. Kurt has shut down 1 boat ramp due to low water, the lake is currently 40.5 inches down.

The Holton/Jackson Chamber met with the Commissioners to discuss the digital highway sign. Those present were Ashley and Janette with the chamber. Janette said that the sign is either going to have to be taken down or upgraded. They are asking for funding from the County. They will apply for a grant but must have other funding to go with it. They estimate that the project will cost about \$100,000.00. Commissioner Kelly stated that he struggles with funding a sign that basically only benefits 1 town in Jackson County. The ladies said if they have the information, they are happy to put events for all cities on the sign. They will seek funding from other entities other than the County.

Jackson County Childhood Development group met with the Commissioners to discuss the possibilities of more childcare in Jackson County. Those present were Tonya Barta, Connie Ramirez and Carrie Saia. They discussed the task force that was established for childcare, currently only meeting 54% of the need of the children in the County. The wages for a daycare

provider are less than what could be made at Walmart, Carrie asked if there are any grants available and said the hospital would be willing to be the nonprofit entity that would be needed for the grants. There are 994 children in the county that are daycare age and 300 of them do not have anywhere in the County to go. Connie said she has been trying to expand her daycare for the last 3 years since covid. She has been unable to do so due to County Regulations. She has also tried to rent space, but you must have 75 ft per child. Only 11 out of 32 providers take DCF assistance, they would like to see more open and licensed services that would take low-income families.

Signed the following payroll changes:

Department	Employee	To	From	Reason
Road and Bridge	Bob Keyes	0	17.64	New hire
Appraiser	Justin Fitzhenry	17.32	18.39	Step Raise

The Commissioners had a zoom meeting with Scot Loyd about the budget.

Sheriff Tim Morse and Undersheriff Scott Morris came in to thank the Commissioners for all their help with the Sheriffs night out.

The Commissioners signed the approved minutes of June 5th thru July 24th.

Commissioner Pruett made the motion to approve the minutes of July 31st, 2023. Commissioner Brenner 2nd the motion. The motion passed 3/0.

Commissioner Pruett made the motion to allocate \$5000.00 to Soldier ball, Circleville ball, Holton Rec club, Whiting Ball, Netawaka Ball, Royal Valley Rec, which includes Hoyt/Mayetta. So, they will receive a check for \$10,000. The Delia and Denison city parks to be paid to the City of Delia and the City of Denison. Commissioner Pruett 2nd the motion, the motion passed 3/0. This is to be paid out of the special alcohol fund.

Commissioner Brenner made the motion to adjourn, Commissioner Pruett 2nd the motion the motion passed 3/0.

Adjourned at 4:25pm

Board of County Commissioners
Jackson County, Kansas

Mark Pruett, 1st District

Dan Brenner, 2nd District

Keith Kelly, 3rd District

Attest:

Kristie D. Richter
Jackson County Clerk