

## *Minutes of September 6, 2022*

The Board of County Commissioners met in regular session at 9 a.m., Chairperson Ed Kathrens, Commissioner Keith Kelly and Commissioner Dan Brenner were present. County Clerk Kathy Mick recorded the minutes.

Received a letter from Jueswi Person Specula who has sent his letter to all 3007 Counties of the United States of America concerning the political divide and increase of political violence. He is for a declaration of secession.

Signed the Conservation budget document for the Conservation board in the amount of \$65,000.

Signed the District Court budget document for the 2nd Judicial District in the amount of \$293,035.00.

Reviewed the minutes of the meetings when the Jackson County Communities that Care met with the Commissioners to request funding. It was determined that they have not received their 2022 allocation from the Special Alcohol Fund. The Clerk was instructed to pay \$15,000 to them on September 15th.

Per the 2021-22 Road Agreement Mid-States sent a check in the amount of \$8,675.00 representing the 15 cent per ton of aggregate sold from the Denison Property. These funds are to be used to maintain the designated haul route. Lee Hendricks will contact Mid-States for the documentation on how this was calculated.

Ashley York, Suzette McCord-Rogers and Laura Golden met with the Commissioners concerning the Seed Grant. Only one application will be accepted per County so they will need to combine the agencies that want to apply for part of the \$50,000 grant into one request. The County agreed to allow the grant to be ran through the County if that is what the Grant requires and the County Clerk would be the Financial Officer. The Commissioners would like for all the Cities to be informed of the Grant. Ashley stated that she had already contacted them and had not heard back from any of them. Keith Kelly will check with Hoyt and Mayetta. Any agency that applies has to have a 10% cash cost share.

Lee Hendricks will calculate a utilities bill for the Adult Corrections for 2nd Judicial District office space on 4th floor based on the square footage. This amount will be divided between Jackson, Jefferson, Pottawatomie and Wabaunsee Counties.

Received an email from Sheriff Morse requesting permission from the Commissioners to give Darrel Chapman his badge and gun which is customary in many agencies when an Undersheriff leaves his position. Keith made the motion to give Darrel his badge and gun for all his years of service. Dan seconded and Chairman Kathrens called for a vote. Motion carried 3/0.

Keith made the motion to go into executive session for a period of 10 minutes for Attorney Client Privileges with Lee Hendricks for a period of 10 minutes. Dan seconded the motion and Chairman Kathrens called for a vote. Motion carried 3/0. The meeting closed at 10:15 with

Attorney Lee Hendricks and County Clerk Kathy Mick also present. The meeting extended 5 minutes. The meeting opened at 10:31. No decision was made.

The Commissioners decided to hold a hearing to vacate a road located at 254th Road between D.4 and E. The hearing was set for September 26th at 9:00 a.m.

County Clerk Kathy Mick mentioned that the Commissioners should let the Senators and Representatives know that after mailing out 11,000 + property tax notices concerning the Revenue Neutral Rate Hearing only 3 people showed up to the hearing. One of them came to the hearing because of the newspaper article not the mailing, publication or website. Kathy will get Lee the cost of sending out that mailing required by the legislature.

Kurt Zibell Director of Banner Creek Reservoir reported that one of the older UTVs broke down. Kurt is also applying for the Seed Grant with the Chamber for a deck at Banner Creek below the Chapel where the Bands set up for the July Jubilee. This deck could then be used for wedding dances or for bands. This week Kurt is preparing for the Cross-Country Meet that will be held at Banner Creek on Thursday.

Recessed for lunch

Michael Catt called and questioned if anyone from the County has been spraying weeds at 18251 222nd Road. Several of the trees he has planted have died. The Commissions will contact Scott Kieffaber.

The Commissioners watch a video of a Forestry chipper. The Commissioners will also have to determine if the County has a machine that can operate the chipper.

The Commissioners again discussed fences and farming in the County's Right of Way. Ed wants a resolution that the County will no longer tolerate farming or fencing on the County Right of Way.

Signed a Request and Petition to occupy County Right of Way for Jerry Dickenson for a new entrance.

Ed Kathrens reported that Chris Gross wants a tube installed on the north end of his field to replace a concrete structure in the center of his field. He is willing to pay for the price of the tube.

Scott Kieffaber reported that a farmer needs to knock a cement guardrail off to get his combine over a crossing. The County is reluctant to give him permission to do this because of the structural damage it could cause or the liability of the structure no longer having a guardrail. The Commissioners will view the site later today.

Scott Kieffaber reported that every 5-years the Landfill plan needs to be reviewed. Scott will be setting up a Landfill Committee meeting in 15-30 days.

Scott Kieffaber submitted a list of roads to vacate last week. The Commissioners were asked if all of those roads were to be vacated. Ed Kathrens said at this time the County is only going to hold a hearing to vacate 254 from D.4 to E.

Road and Bridge employee Kevin Robbins will now be a Truck Driver or a Boom Mower operator and no longer a shop employee.

Keith Kelly will meet with Road & Bridge supervisors on September 20th.

Fiona Bagwell and John Selitto introduced themselves to the County Commissioners. They are looking for 2,000 contiguous acres of land to lease in the Delia area for solar energy. It will take them 3-5 years to develop the area. They will have to do wildlife studies. NextEra will restore the land after the project is over, which will be approximately 30+ years. The solar panels would be Tax Exempt for the 1st 10 years, but NextEra may offer a contribution in place of taxes.

Twenty-two concerned citizens also attended this meeting and the Commissioners gave them a chance to ask question of the Commission and NextEra. Most of the people are concerned about the effects it will have on the land and the value of their homes. Some of the residents just don't want the solar panels next to them, they moved to a farming community and want to see farms. Fiona stated that the panels are almost entirely recyclable at the end of the project's lifetime. There are no batteries that can leak or hazardous material, they have electrical breakers. The electricity produced will go to Missouri. Keith asked if it could be sold locally. Fiona replied that the electricity will be sent on Jeffery Energy lines. When asked if NextEra receives Federal funding. Fiona replied that NextEra is getting subsidizes with Federal dollars. WIBW New was also present during this meeting.

The Commissioners left the Chamber to view road in the NE portion of the County.

The Commissioners viewed the roads around the Larry Amon farm that he cannot access because of the width of his newer equipment. After viewing the concrete crossings and the low water crossing the Commissioners called Larry Amon to discuss the issue. The Commissions stated that if Larry was willing to use his water way this year to access his corn field, then next year they County would budget \$12,000 for a tube to replace the concrete crossing on the Southside to the west end. Larry agreed to this.

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m. The next meeting will be September 12, 2022 at 9:00 p.m.

Board of Jackson County Commissioners

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Ed Kathrens, 1<sup>st</sup> District Commissioner

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Dan Brenner, 2<sup>nd</sup> District Commissioner

Attest:

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Kathy Mick, County Clerk

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Keith Kelly, 3<sup>rd</sup> District Commissioner