

Minutes of September 12, 2022

The Board of County Commissioners met in regular session on September 12th at 9 a.m., Chairperson Ed Kathrens, Commissioner Keith Kelly and Commissioner Dan Brenner were present. County Clerk Kathy Mick recorded the minutes.

Carolyn McKee met to give the Commissioners a printing press from The Gossip for the Museum. The Commissioners informed Carolyn that they have nothing to do with the Museum.

Steve Brees, Don Brees and Bill Conley met to discuss the positive sides of the solar farm for the landowners that have land that NextEra is considering. Most of the land should be pasture but they have been trying to make more money lately by planting crops. With what Next Era offers for a lease it makes it hard to compete with. They figure it is going to be built somewhere and if it helps them to be able to keep the family farms a little longer, they are for it. Don is concerned about fires and if there is no ground cover, erosion would be a big deal to him. It's the reality right now, if they decommission coal plants they have to do something. Pamela Brown wanted to know why they choose Kansas, just because they can buy the land cheaper?

Landowners Steve Brees, Don Brees and Bill Conley met and presented a letter of support for the solar farm project. This project could be a source of income that would allow them to generationally remain in farming. They feel they have the right to develop their land and recognize that those opposing this project have rights, too. However, many of those that were in attendance and showed opposition do not live anywhere near this project and would rarely, if ever, see it. They would suggest that the commission give special consideration to the voices of all residents who live within one mile of the developed ground. Those are the people who would see it every day and would be truly affected. The letter of support was signed by David Brees, Steven Brees, Don Brees Jr, Bill Conley, Tricia Conley, Joe Crow & Dave Bascom. Bill Conley stated that 'It's going to be built somewhere whether people like it or not. Why not Jackson County? When opportunity knocks, you need to at least listen.'

Lisa Hyten, victim services coordinator, expressed her concerns about Commissioner Dan Brenner talking outside a meeting with former County Attorney concerning a contract with a special prosecutor. Chairman Kathrens stopped Lisa and told her to leave the meeting, that what Dan does outside the Commissioners office is not County business. Keith told her she was speaking in a very disrespectful manner and needed to leave. Lisa was told she had to go through the County Counselor if she wanted to talk to the Commissioners anymore.

Gary New asked when the County was going to implement a sales tax that would relieve some of the Ad Valorem property tax. Keith said they have thought about it but didn't want to hurt any of the businesses by raising the rate higher than surrounding counties.

Kurt Zibell stated that NRCS was having 4-Wheeler training at Banner Creek today. Kurt has rented a tree saw for stumps and it broke down. Kurt has not heard anything about the engine on the mower.

Kevin Hill stopped in to see the Commissioners while in Jackson County and discussed some of the solar farms that are going in in Shawnee County.

Received bids two bids for tubes and bands:

Contech \$22,877.58

Welborn Sales \$26,137.65

Keith made the motion to accept the low bid from Contech in the amount of \$22,877.28. Dan seconded and Chairman Kathrens called for a vote. Motion carried 3/0.

Salt and Sand bids were received;

Independent Salt Company \$59.92 per ton delivered.

Central Salt \$62.48 per ton delivered.

Keith made the motion to accept the low bid from Independent Salt Company for 400 tons of bulk Highway Deicing Salt delivered at the price of \$59.92 per ton for the 0222-23 winter season. Dan seconded and Chairman Kathrens call for a vote. Motion carried 3/0.

The pre-construction meeting for the bridge at 276 & T will be a Web Conference on Sept 16th and the construction will begin on September 20th.

Kurt Zibell discussed the possibility of purchasing a tree mulcher that would fit on the skid loader. Kurt would like to share equipment with Road & Bridge, like if road and bridge purchases the larger mulcher that fits on the excavator they could share them depending on the job they are working on.

Suzette McCord- Rogers informed the Commissioner that Tourism has filled Dhiren Chatterji position with Jake Huyett. At Tourism's October 11th meeting Jake would like to give a marketing presentation to the County Commissioners showing the different approaches to advertising such as website, Facebook, state travel guide and other social media. This will be a lunch time meeting and Tourism will provide lunch for the Commissioners.

Suzette also requested that the Jackson County Historical and Genealogical Society be paid \$1000 out of Tourism grant funds for the development of a Jackson County driving tour brochure with pictures and text to highlight significant historical features, buildings and landscapes in the County.

Sheriff sent a memo the Commissioner to inform them that he has acquired an Army surplus armored HUMC (High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle).

Received letter from Lindsay and Patsy Houck who reside at 2136 158th road. When the solar farm land agent found out that they only owned 14 acres, the agent was no longer interested in their property. But the Houck what the Commissions to know that they are opposed to the building of a solar farm and do not want to live in or near this proposed solar farm that would undoubtedly destroy the way of life. And quality of life in their area. They are very concerned about what it will do to the value of their farm.

Appointed Dan Brenner as the County's voting delegate at the KAC meeting in October.

Notified Kansas Department of Revenue that Jackson County had no mandatory restrictions or shutdowns of retail storefronts before March 17, 2020 or after May 26, 2020. This information will assist PVD to implement the COVID -19 retail storefront property tax relief act as defined in 2022 Legislation HB 2136.

Keith made the motion to approve the minutes of August 22 as written. Dan seconded the motion and the motion carried 3.0.

Keith made the motion to approve the minutes of August 29 as written. Dan seconded the motion and the motion carried 3.0.

Keith made the motion to approve the minutes of September 6 as written. Dan seconded the motion and the motion carried 3.0.

Signed the following payroll change notices:

Department	Name	From	To	Reason	Date / /
Sher	Lisa Hyten	50,544	0	Resignation	9/16/2022
Sher	Scott Morris	51,365	61,800	Promotion	
Elderly	April Hegemann	14.46	0	Resignation	9/7/2022

Signed the following Purchase Orders:

Department	PO #	To	For	Amount
Road	6901	Contech	45 Pipes and 23 Bands	\$22,877.58

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m. The next Commission meeting will be September 19, 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