

Commissioner Meeting
December 4, 2017

Chairman Ben Fox called the regular meeting of the Greenwood County Commissioners to order at 9:00 a.m. Other members present were Brian Hind, Paul Hodge, and Kathy Robison, County Clerk. Paul Dean, County Counselor arrived at 9:15 a.m.

No Commission Meeting Minutes.

No Treasurer's Report.

During the Road and Bridge report, Commissioner Hind talked to Roger Lowe, Road and Bridge Supervisor about a dangerous place in a road in the north end of the county. Hind remarked that the sign was in the ditch and he was unable to find any traffic cones to mark the place to make it more safe. Lowe talked about putting an extension in the area to fix the problem, but Commissioner Hind said the ditch will also need to be fixed. Lowe reported they have started hauling rock out of hilltop, south of Virgil; reported that the recycle bins at Tripco have been collecting a lot of trash, which the recycle company will not accept, so Lowe would like to move them somewhere in downtown Severy. He plans to contact the City of Severy about possible locations and days. Lowe reported that one of his employees has completed his CDL training so he will bring in the proof to change his rate of pay. Lowe said he had some quotes from Murphy \$7,000/ one month rental, and Foley \$7,117.59/one month rental (this is follow-up information requested from last week's meeting). Levi Vinson, Emergency Management/Noxious Weed Director suggested purchasing a grapple truck, with an articulating arm that could pick up tree limbs and brush and deposit it into the bed of the truck. Vinson said the unit is able to be reimbursed from FEMA at \$103 per hour on FEMA qualified disasters. Vinson said depending on the cab of the truck, prices range from \$200,000 new, down to \$15,000 on used equipment markets. Vinson asked permission to finding a suitable unit for the county in the price range that's acceptable. Vinson mentioned another option which is a wood chipper, which runs from \$8,000-\$15,000, but that would need a covered truck to blow the chips in unless they were near a field. Commissioner Hind said they would need to wait and see how much money is left in the Road and Bridge budget. Lowe also reported that Zach Marshall was going to get started on the bridge on 220 that he had discussed at last week's meeting, and will fix it like Ladd Bridge.

Commissioner Hind asked Lowe for cones to be left in the north end of the county, in the event a road needs to be closed after hours. There will be a total of eight cones taken to Madison, four at the Madison Fire Barn and four at the Madison Sheriff's Office.

Jami Clark, Appraiser reported to commissioners that they are beginning the final review for 2018 and may be out in the field over the noon hour. There may be days that they are closed between noon and 1:00 and wanted to inform the commissioners and the public. If the Appraiser's Office employees are close to town they will try to get in to keep it open during the noon hour, but it may be closed some days.

Marcus Johnson thanked the commissioners for allowing the use of the courthouse for the Christmas in Eureka event.

Commissioner Hind made a motion to approve payroll in the amount of \$96,562.80. Commissioner Hodge seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Commissioner Hind made a motion to approve special payables, dated 12-04-2017, in the amount of \$1,725.34. Commissioner Hodge seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Commissioner Hind made a motion to approve payables, dated 12-08-2017, in the amount of \$125,417.22. Commissioner Hodge seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Commissioner Hind made a motion to approve abatements. Commissioner Hodge seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The commissioners reviewed the Fee Reports.

The Trane representatives were present out of Wichita regarding the purchase of the new chiller system for the courthouse. They presented an agreement, in regard to the purchase, for the commissioners to review. County Counselor Paul Dean asked about the cost of purchasing a performance bond to guarantee the project will be completed, as in the past, with other companies, we have had difficulty getting them to complete the final details of installation. The Trane representatives assured them that would not happen with their company, but they did offer a performance bond, in the amount of \$4,160. County Counselor Paul Dean recommended that they purchase this to go along with previously approved new chiller system.

Commissioner Fox made a motion for a 10 minute executive session for personnel regarding an employee replacement. Commissioner Hind seconded the motion. The motion carried.

No decision was made.

Several representatives from the local and state Extension Boards spoke to the commissioners about forming a cooperative Extension District for Greenwood County. Ryan Engle, Greenwood County Extension Board President; Greg Davis, who serves on the state extension board; and Jim Lindquist, Assistant Director for K-State Research and Extension provided commissioners with information about the 45 counties in Kansas who have chosen to district over the last 20 years. Commissioners were told that one of the largest benefits would be access to more extension

agents, with more specialized interests i.e. horticulture, livestock production, adult development and aging, etc. Currently the Greenwood County extension office employs one agent specializing in agriculture, one agent specializing in nutrition and one administrative assistant. At this time, each district, still maintains an office in each county. Another piece of information given related to taxes: the district would become a new taxing entity similar to a school district, township, etc. and would no longer fall in the county's budget. "The assessed valuation for all the counties totaled together becomes the assessed valuation for the district," explained Lindquist. Commissioner Hodge asked about the tax base and if it would raise taxes in Greenwood County by forming a district. Lindquist answered that it would depend on if they partnered with a richer or poorer county. If the valuation was lower in another county, then by pooling and averaging the tax base, Greenwood County's taxes would increase. Ryan Engle shared Greenwood County has been looking at the Flint Hills District, consisting of Morris and Chase counties, because their valuation is similar to Greenwood's, but nothing has been done yet. Commissioner Hind said he was uncomfortable with the commission making the decision to join a district because it would directly affect taxes paid by constituents. Greg Davis relayed that the public would be allowed to voice their opinion in the form of a protest if they disagreed. Lindquist offered that some counties held an advisory vote for the public to give their support or objection to the districting ahead of the decision. The commissioners asked the group to talk to the proposed district and gather more information, as all three of them would prefer a public vote before making a decision. Also the commissioners were concerned over relinquishing tax authority for extension services.

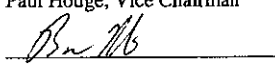
At 10:58 a.m. Commissioner Hind made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Hodge seconded the motion. The motion carried.

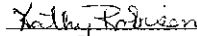
Calendar:

December 11th - Next Commission Meeting - 9:00 a.m.
December 15th - Deadline for County Dinner Bids - Bids in to Clerk's Office by 5:00 p.m.
December 18th - Open County Dinner Bids @ 9:30 a.m. @ Commission Mtg.
January 25th - GW Co. Hospital Board Mtg @ 5:30 p.m. @ G.W. Co. Home Health Conference Rm.


Ben Fox, Chairman


Paul Hodge, Vice Chairman


Brian Hind, Member

ATTEST: 
Kathy Robison, County Clerk