

Commissioner Meeting
March 12, 2018

Chairman Ben Fox called the regular meeting of the Greenwood County Commissioners to order at 9:00 a.m. Other members present were Paul Hodge, Chuck Spradlin, and Shannon Gant, Deputy Clerk. Paul Dean, County Counselor arrived at 9:28 a.m.

No Commission Meeting Minutes.

Roger Lowe, Road and Bridge Supervisor reported they are transporting rock down on T Rd to 30th Street, now today they are at 365th west of Madison, clear up to the Browning Ranch, two trucks going to Severy to GG Rd over by Double EE Ranch southeast; Travis Clinesmith said he would go through the new grader we are purchasing from Madison Township and make sure everything is okay on it, before we receive it at the end of this month. Commissioner Fox asked if the money has already been earmarked for the grader and Road and Bridge Office Manager Amber Woodie said yes. Woodie told the commissioners she had forgotten to submit a bill for the Norwegian Church bridge project in the amount of \$139,000. Commissioner Spradlin said he had spoken with Treasurer Donna Olson and reminded Woodie that when they have large expenditures they need to let the Treasurer have more notice so Olson has time to pull it out of investment funding and mentioned she needed to talk to Olson about the grader at the end of the month, as it is another approximately \$116,000.00 purchase. Lowe said he is going to speak with APAC about chip/seal this week regarding bids. Commissioner Fox said we need to get at least one other bid from a different company. Commissioner Hodge asked how the new patch is working and Lowe said it is working "pretty good." Commissioner Fox said he would still like to see them get a small roller to use with it. Levi Vinson, Emergency Management/Noxious Weed Director said for 600 feet of chain length fence; including the railing, etc. to go with it, amounts to \$3,684. The plan is to use the inmate work crew to do the installation of the project. Lowe said he took Sheriff Samuels with him to Wichita to the place where Samuels gets his vehicles outfitted with light bars for Lowe's work truck. Woodie brought information packets to the commissioners that Office Professional Janet Turner had made that highlights Greenwood County. It shows what's paved, Greenwood County's property, The Corp, etc.

Commissioner Fox asked Chief Williams if there was currently a burn ban and Williams said not at this time, but he would prefer that people would wait to burn brush until at least April when the pastures start turning green, and it's a less dangerous time to burn. Williams noted that half of the fires last week were likely caused by brush burning. Williams also reported that during the five largest fires last week, he calculated 700 hours of volunteer firefighting time, which he equated to over \$16,000-worth of donated labor. "Our volunteers are doing us a wonderful job," he added. Road and Bridge Supervisor Roger Lowe asked Williams about how local farmers and ranchers could be of assistance while responders are fighting these fires. Williams said they appreciate the help they provide and prefer that they stay at the tail end of the fire to help and "mop up". During Williams fire update he told commissioner he has had two pumps that have gone out in two of his trucks that need replaced. One for \$3,950 and the other for \$4,075, he estimated the pumpers were 25 and 30 years old. Also he had a bid for tires on a Severy truck for approximately \$1,000. The commissioners approved the purchases.

County Counselor Paul Dean reported that he did contact Westar regarding the concerns from last weeks' meeting about the utility poles located at 190 east going out of Quincy, heading toward Woodson and EE and 200. Dean said when Westar called him back, he told them they needed to move the poles out to the fence. Commissioner Spradlin had visited the location and taken some pictures. There was some discussion regarding the road and ditching and private property concerns. Counselor Dean said that unless there is a survey, no one can tell for sure where the road should be. Dean added that Westar usually has a 20-30 foot path they're working with and could've put them farther in. "That doesn't look like a safe place for poles." The commissioners asked Lowe to call Woodson County and talk to them as well.

Commissioner Hodge made a motion to approve a special payable, dated 03-07-2018, in the amount of \$80.66. Commissioner Spradlin seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Commissioner Spradlin made a motion to approve payroll in the amount of \$105,543.35. Commissioner Hodge seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Commissioner Spradlin made a motion to approve payables in the amount of \$282,198.58. Commissioner Hodge seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Commissioner Hodge made a motion to approve an employee status change for Alanna Del Pozzo from a part-time EMT to full-time position. Her pay remains the same @ \$11.35 per hour. Commissioner Spradlin seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Commissioner Spradlin made a motion to approve Resolution EP18-01 and Proclamation -Declaring a State of Local Disaster Emergency 03-07-2018. Commissioner Hodge seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Levi Vinson, Emergency Management/Noxious Weed Director mentioned that they are allowed to sign several of those resolutions to declare a state of local disaster emergency ahead of time to help cut through the red tape and have them available in the next event of an emergency like the fire in Hamilton last week, but after some discussion with the commissioners, they decided that they are available for signature, and Vinson said it does not slow up the process of actually getting state aid. It still just requires a phone call. The declaration ahead of time would merely quicken the paperwork process.

Greenwood County Hospital CEO Sandra Dickerson asked commissioners to revisit mill levy funding for the hospital. During the 2018 budgeting process the commissioners opted to collect three mills and put them in the

general fund earmarked for the hospital but would not be distributed until the hospital provided current financial data, as state statute requires them to do. Dickerson has been to several commission meetings this past year and provided financial statements and in January, Commissioners Fox and Hodge agreed to consider distribution after the 2017 hospital audit was set to be completed this March. This week, Dickerson informed them that the audit would not be complete until April, however, she asked that they consider releasing \$100,000 of the mill levy funding, as they would like to pay down more of their debt. Dickerson informed commissioners that debt that is 30 days and older is about \$700,000 and debt that is over 120 days is at \$300,000. There plan is to use the money to pay off the older debt that they are currently making payments on to vendors, therefore, that carry interest. Dickerson said when she first started the debt over 120 days was close to \$1 million. Commissioner Spradlin asked for a report from the hospital to show what accounts they pay. Dickerson said they would provide that information. Commissioner Spradlin made a motion to approve releasing \$100,000 of the Hospital Maintenance to them for the March 30th distribution and then consider releasing the rest after seeing more financial results. Commissioner Hodge seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Greenwood County Appraiser Jami Clark gave commissioners information about the 2018 Ag values and explained that Greenwood County has received an average of 16 percent increase over the 2017 values. The value of agricultural land in Kansas is determined by the Kansas Department of Revenue Property Valuation Division. Clark explained the determining factors the state uses to come up with the figures and told the commissioners if anyone has questions about their values to have them contact the Appraiser's Office at (620) 583-8131. Surrounding counties, with the exception of Elk County, are lower than Greenwood's values. Lyon County's values are eight percent higher, Coffey County is showing a six percent increase, Chase is a ten percent, Woodson shows an 11 percent increase, Wilson is up by 10 percent and Butler is at 14 percent higher. Elk County received a 16 percent increase, the same as Greenwood.

Ian Martell, City Administrator; Mark Kennedy, Eureka City Council; and Jerry Cook, City Zoning Council Committee were all present to discuss the proposal to annex the Eureka Lake property into the City of Eureka. Commissioners will eventually need to approve or disapprove of the annexation. At this point the city is still in the early stages of gathering information and determining if it will be worth pursuing. There is little data regarding the lake lots. Current residents at the lake lease their lots from the city and place their own cabin or trailer on the lot, they do not own the property. Some of the issues discussed were whether surveys would be necessary to plat the area or if past deeds would be sufficient. There were pins put in the ground several years ago by a former lake caretaker, however the question was asked whether that would work or if they would need to be professionally placed. County Appraiser Jami Clark explained that until property is sold at the lake, it's hard to see where the market value will be. Eureka City Councilman Kennedy said they are still in the infancy of the proposal and are gathering information at this time.

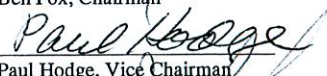
10:42 a.m. Commissioner Fox made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Hodge seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Calendar:

- March 19th – Next Commission Meeting – 9:00 a.m.
- March 19th – Fence Viewing @ 11:00 a.m. Hart / McCollum
- March 21st – Annual Township Dinner @ Matt Samules Bldg @ 7p.m./Registration @ 6:30p.m./RSVP by 12p.m. March 9th w/Road & Bridge office (620)583-8111
- March 22nd – GW Co. Hospital Board Mtg @ 5:30 p.m. GW Co. Hospital Conference Rm.
- March 26th – Farm Bureau Lunch w/Commissioners @ 12:00 p.m. –Restaurant not chosen yet

ATTEST: Kathy Robinson
Kathy Robinson, County Clerk


Ben Fox, Chairman


Paul Hodge, Vice Chairman


Chuck Spradlin, Member