

Commissioner Meeting
June 22nd, 2020

Chairman Paul Hodge called the regular meeting of the Greenwood County Commissioners to order at 9:00 a.m. Other members present were Ben Fox, Roy Ballard, Robert Joe Morgan, Chuck Spradlin, Kathy Robison County Clerk and County Counselor Paul Dean.

The Commissioners led everyone present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Fox made a motion to approve June 15th, 2020 Minutes. Commissioner Spradlin seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Road and Bridge Supervisor Darrel Chrisman reported that the bridge on H road was nearly finished. Chrisman reported there has been some activity with the grant program on Christian Hills Bridge, stating that KDHE called and inquired on whether or not Road and Bridge is currently working with an engineer. Darrel told commissioners, "There was no encouragement, but at least there is activity going on, in that grant program." Chrisman informed Commissioners that he planned on going to Missouri tomorrow to look at a pothole patching truck, stating that he believes it will be a benefit to the county. Commissioner Spradlin made a motion to approve Road and Bridge Department spending up to \$40,000 on said truck. Commissioner Fox seconded the motion. The motion carried with one opposition; Commissioner Paul Hodge. Chrisman then told commissioners that the small bulldozer that was submerged in water during flash floods this year is no longer of use. Commissioner Roy Ballard recommended that Chrisman pull the plug and allow the vehicle to sit out in the sun to dry out the transmission. It could then be marketed as running condition with transmission issues. Road and Bridge employee Kassie Martin-Turner presented commissioners with an agreement with KDOT; the Local Road Safety Plan. This plan is a 90/10 split, meaning the county would be responsible for \$5,280.98. This would give Greenwood County priority in high risk rural funding. Commissioner Fox made a motion to approve spending \$5,280.98 for said plan. Commissioner Ballard seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Health Department Nurse Vicki Lindsey-Ross reported that the state has approved a \$2,500 reimbursement toward the purchase of a new vaccine refrigerator. The cost of the refrigerator is currently \$10,137.90. Commissioner Hodge made a motion to approve the purchase of a new vaccine refrigerator in the amount of \$10,137.90. Commissioner Spradlin seconded the motion. The motion carried.

CrossWinds requested the same amount of funding be budgeted for 2021 as was budgeted in previous years.

S.O.S. requested the same amount be budgeted this year as was in previous years.

Health Department employee Mary Hancock presented commissioners with the Health Department budget, stating they would see a bit of an increase, noting that this was done in anticipation of an increase in vaccinations as well as the addition of a PRN nurse added to payroll for up to 500 hours annually. Mary reported an increase of their AT&T phone bill, informing commissioners they pay between \$800 and \$900 a month. Commissioner Fox informed her that the county is currently looking at an intermediary that claims to be able to save the county nearly \$8,000 annually, stating, "We may be able to help that a little bit." Commissioner Spradlin inquired about a 5% salary increase for Health Department Nurse Vicki Lindsey-Ross, stating, "We told people not to do that." No decisions were made.

Sheriff Heath Samuels presented the Sheriff Department's budget for 2021. He noted that there were two budgets provided; one that includes the Emergency Management Department and one that excludes it. Samuels stated that the courthouse security was not included within the presented budget. Vinson stated that one benefit from moving Emergency Management under the Sheriff's Department would be the removal of the budget cap; Emergency Management would not need permission from the commissioners if a purchase were to put those departments over budget. County Clerk Kathy Robison asked commissioners if they had discussed moving the Emergency Management Department under the Sheriff's Department or "is this just Levi and the Sheriff going for it?" It was noted that the conversation had been approached last year, but no decisions were made then. The commissioners made the decision to review the budgets and revisit the issue at a later date.

County Fire Chief Doug Williams reported that the department's budget increased by approximately \$4,000 due to a new part-time position of mechanic. Williams informed commissioners that the Piedmont fire building is so narrow that the mirrors on the truck have to be pulled in so the truck will fit in the building. He noted that an ad approximate \$10,000 addition would provide the department the space they need. Williams also told commissioners to anticipate the replacement of several trucks in the future.

Commissioner Fox questioned County Clerk Kathy Robison regarding applications for mail-in ballots for the upcoming election, stating people were confused. Robison informed Fox that the State of Kansas

recommended all County Clerks send out those applications to cut down traffic at polling places. Robison stated that polling places will still be available.

Commissioners approved two new employee verifications for the Appraiser's office. The first approval was for Chelsea Martell, starting June 22, 2020 at the rate of \$12 per hour for full time employment. Commissioner Fox made a motion to approve employee verification for Chelsea Martell. Commissioner Ballard seconded the motion. The motion carried. The second approval was for Charity Hall, starting June 29, 2020 at the rate of \$12 per hour for full time employment. Commissioner Ballard made a motion to approve employee verification for Charity Hall. Commissioner Morgan seconded the motion. The motion carried.

County Clerk Kathy Robison addressed commissioners about the subject of elections and publications. Robison noted that local newspapers have adopted a new e-file system which adds a processing fee that has increased the price of placing legal publications. Robison stated she doesn't know how we can continue to have two county papers if those rates continue. Robison asked commissioners to reconsider having two County papers. No decisions were made. The issue will be approached at a later date.

Commissioners discussed dropping the sales tax currently being collected to support the hospital. It was then noted that the accounts payable at the Greenwood County Hospital have been made current and the thought was to discontinue the tax. CEO Sandy Dickerson noted that funds received during the COVID-19 pandemic were utilized for payroll payments, unless otherwise required, which freed up funds to pay down outstanding debt. She noted that the hospital is still in need of the sales tax. This will ensure that GWCH continues to offer services to the public while maintaining financial stability. No decisions were made. The half-cent sales tax expires December of 2021.

Emergency Management Director Levi Vinson briefed commissioners on the SPARK task force, which is part of the CARES Act. The SPARK task force has developed a three phase approach for distribution of funds allocated for county governments from the federal government. Vinson recommended forming a task force. Vinson then reported that KDEM moved the Hazel Russell bridge from the 2018 FEMA event to the May 2019 FEMA event. This move was discussed at a previous meeting and the decision was made then, not to move FEMA events for fear of not being funded at all, for those events. In a previous meeting, Vinson brought commissioners a bid totaling \$30,000 for the purchase of an arm extension to be utilized in mowing ditches throughout the county. Vinson reported having found a company out of Iowa that sells the same attachment at a much lower cost of \$9,999. Commissioner Hodge asked Vinson if he would be interested in purchasing a diesel tractor for \$18,000 from a resident in Greenwood County. Vinson noted he would look into that. Commissioner Ballard informed Vinson he needed to see if it has a shear pin or a slip clutch. Vinson will look into the matter and be in touch with Ballard. If favorable, he will then move forward with the purchase. Commissioner Fox made a motion to approve the purchase of the mower attachment in the amount of \$9,999, along with the shipping cost of \$650. Commissioner Hodge seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Sheriff Heath Samuels addressed the lawsuit against the Sheriff's Department that has been publicized recently. Legal Counsel Paul Dean noted that the document filed is more of a records request than it is a wrongful death suit. Dean noted the County's insurance will be handling the case.

Commissioner Fox made a motion to adjourn at 11:39 a.m. Commissioner Spradlin seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The next Commission Meeting will be held Monday, June 29th, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.

ATTEST: Kathy Robison
Kathy Robison, County Clerk

Paul Hodge
Paul Hodge, Chairman

Ben Fox
Ben Fox, Vice Chairman

Chuck Spradlin
Chuck Spradlin Member

Roy Ballard
Roy Ballard, Member

Robert Joe Morgan
Robert Joe Morgan, Member