

MARCH 20, 2023

Chairman Roy Ballard called the regular meeting of the Greenwood County Commissioners to order at 9:00 a.m. Other members present were Ben Fox, Paul Hodge, Preston Evenson, Malcolm Obourn, County Counselor Paul Dean and County Clerk Kathy Robison.

Commissioners led everyone present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

***Commissioner Fox moved to approve March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023 Minutes as written. Evenson seconded. Motion carried 5-0.***

Chief Judge David Ricke attended the meeting to explain budget overruns for the Court system. Ricke told commissioners that to his understanding of the law, the county is obligated to pay any over-budget costs that the court incurs. It was noted that the 2023 expenditures may exceed the budget also due to jury trial costs. Court Administrator Dawn Rouse spoke to commissioners regarding procedures in place to prevent exceeding the Court budget in the future; they have implemented a plan for all invoices to go through Court Administration rather than the District Court Clerk.

Road and Bridge Report:

- The bridge on the Lake Road is in need of repair.
- Last week a county vehicle had an incident involving a deer; Chrisman has looked into a replacement vehicle.

***Evenson moved to approve the purchase of a replacement vehicle for Road and Bridge, following Chrisman's viewing/approval of said vehicle, in the amount of \$26,500. Hodge seconded. Motion carried 5-0.***

- County contracted engineer Michael Maris provided commissioners with an update of the following:
  - Christian Hills Bridge was finished last year
  - Tadpole Creek bridge goes out for letting in 2023 with construction to begin before July 31, 2023.
  - The bridge west of Hamilton is scheduled for repair in late 2024 or early 2025.
  - The bridge across Fall River is slated for closure.

Commissioners reviewed Treasurer's report. No decisions were made.

***Evenson moved to approve payroll in the amount of \$135,730.06. Fox seconded. Motion carried 5-0.***

***Commissioner Hodge moved to approve payables in the amount of \$363,518.80. Evenson seconded. Motion carried 5-0.***

Ambulance Director Brian Mongeau spoke with commissioners regarding a lock on the tower in Madison. County Counselor Paul Dean noted that Kwikom owns the tower but has done nothing with it. Dean is slated to contact Kwikom to verify their plans regarding this tower as Greenwood County may need to maintain upkeep/repair of said tower. Mongeau noted that he has made contact with Pioneer Communications, in regards to adding an antenna to the south tower, and was informed that American Tower Company now owns the south fire tower. Mongeau is not optimistic that Greenwood County will be able to utilize space rent-free from the current owner. Emergency Management Levi Vinson noted that commissioners have spoken previously regarding changing the verbiage in a building permit for tower applications to include that if telecommunications companies were to build in Greenwood County, they would have to allow the county rent-free space on their tower; Vinson asked if this verbiage was ever added. Dean noted that it may have been added to some, possibly not all, as it is usually determined on a case-by-case basis.

A brief discussion regarding a new vehicle for Ambulance was held. Mongeau noted the cost would be \$48,500 and is not aware of the cost of upkeep.

***Evenson moved to approve the purchase of a new vehicle for the Ambulance Department in the amount of \$48,500. No second. Motion failed 1-4.***

Register of Deeds Marsha Ramsey provided employment verification for Sheila Smith, noting Smith started part-time on 3/16/23 and will start full-time employment on 3/31/23 as a Deputy Register of Deeds at a pay-rate of \$15 per hour.

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*Evenson moved to approve hiring Sheila Smith at a pay-rate of \$15 per hour. Fox seconded. Motion carried 5-0.*

Fox noted that previous employee Vic Delpine passed away and would like the commission to donate \$50 a-piece to Delpine's memorial fund. Fellow commissioners voiced no opposition to this recommendation.

Maintenance Supervisor Greg Rawlings provided commissioners with an estimate of \$800 for a restocking fee of the carpet already ordered and delivered, as the County Attorney's office would like hard-surface floors. Paul Dean will speak with the Attorney's office regarding this cost and the cost to cover the difference of the laminate flooring they would prefer. Rawlings is tasked with providing an estimate for the hard surface flooring. Rawlings also noted there would be labor costs incurred as he is not able to utilize inmate trustees in the Attorney's office.

Evenson noted that when the flooring project moves to the County Clerk's office, he would suggest that said office be closed on that Friday.

County resident Jeff Pittman would like 20mph speed limit signs/children playing signs on 40<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>. It was noted that Road and Bridge Supervisor Darrel Chrisman would need a resolution to reduce speeds. Sheriff Heath Samuels is slated to look at this area and make a determination at a later date.

Levi Vinson informed commissioners that he is nearly finished with the mapping project he was tasked with.

It was brought to commissioners' attention that when executive sessions are held, they need to clearly state the purpose for the session.

*Fox moved to adjourn at 10:25 a.m. Evenson seconded. Motion carried 5-0.*

ATTEST: Kathy Robison  
Kathy Robison, County Clerk

Roy Ballard  
Roy Ballard, Chairman

Ben Fox  
Ben Fox, Vice Chairman

Paul Hodge  
Paul Hodge, Member

Malcolm Obourn  
Malcolm Obourn, Member

Preston Evenson  
Preston Evenson, Member