

**COMMISSION MEETING**  
**AUGUST 30<sup>TH</sup>, 2021**

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

Commissioners led everyone present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ballard moved to approve August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2021 Minutes. Morgan seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Road and Bridge report:

- Fox informed Chrisman that he had received a phone call from a resident regarding installation of bus route pick-up signage; the individual expressed concerns of traffic moving too fast through the area.
- Chrisman presented the annual agreement with BG Consultants for providing services and drafting reports pertaining to the landfill in the amount of \$240. Fox moved to accept the agreement presented. Spradlin seconded. Motion carried 5-0.
- Chrisman reported repairing tread boards on the bridge located on V Road and 150<sup>th</sup>.
- A bypass is currently being installed on 380<sup>th</sup>.
- Darrel informed commissioners that he is still waiting on a phone call from the engineer that is slated to continue repairs on Reece Road.
- One of the county dump trucks is in need of an engine; Chrisman has been looking into the purchase price for said engine.

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

Fox moved to approve special amounts payable in the amount of \$254.02. Morgan seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Emergency Management Director Levi Vinson provided commissioners with a resolution to adopt the National Incident Management System. (NIMS) Vinson stated that having this resolution in place is a requirement to procure federal funding in the event of a disaster. Fox moved to accept Resolution 21-11 to adopt NIMS. Ballard seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Sheriff Samuels informed commissioners that he hired Jared Helkenberg for a full time position at a pay rate of \$14.50 per hour; Samuels also hired Yvette Lawrence for a part time position at a pay rate of \$12.30 per hour. Fox moved to approve hiring Helkenberg and Lawrence at the previously stated pay rates. Spradlin seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

EMS Director Brian Mongeau told commissioners that two ambulance vehicles needed repairs and he expected to see bills coming in soon that total a "couple thousand dollars." Mongeau stated both vehicles are up and running.

Spradlin moved to approve SCKEDD to provide grant administration services for the funds received through the American Rescue Plan Act in the amount of \$30,000. Hodge seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Fox informed fellow commissioners that the County does not currently have a Public Information Officer (PIO) and he would like Emergency Management Director Levi Vinson to serve in the roll temporarily until the position can be filled. Fox stated that if any questions were posed by media outlets, he would like to see them being channeled through one individual. Vinson noted that the County needs to look at hiring someone with greater flexibility, in the event an emergency should arise, so that their office is not disrupted. Vinson spoke in favor of hiring someone internally rather than branching out.

Commissioners held a department head meeting pertaining to policies and COVID related matters. Fox informed fellow commissioners and department heads that masks received from KDEM were not to be distributed to the public as they are for county employee use. Commissioners spoke in favor of departments purchasing masks out of their budgets, if they preferred the public to wear a mask.

Questions had been posed regarding previous decisions to continue providing pay to county employees who are quarantined or test positive for COVID-19. County counselor Paul Dean noted that the decision to pay those employees and how long to pay them, falls on the Department Head. Dean stated that any questions should be brought to County Clerk Kathy Robison first, then the commission. Health Department Director Vicki Lindsey stated that only department heads should call her to ask if someone is in quarantine, noting that fines for HIPPA violations ranged from \$150,000 to \$250,000 per incident and up to ten years jail time. Following that discussion, commissioners made the decision that COVID sick leave would be left to the discretion of the Department Head.

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Lindsey then brought the subject of county policies for discussion. She stated that there is a proper chain of command in place and there have been recent violations of that chain of command. Lindsey also referenced the county harassment policy, stating that a person should not be placing calls to various departments asking questions that have nothing to do with their department. Lindsey noted that she feels this is harassment. She reiterated once again, that the chain of command should be followed. Lindsey referenced work place violence policies, noting that when someone is continually calling different departments and harassing them, she felt this could be construed as work place violence.

Maintenance Supervisor Greg Rawlings posed questions regarding who makes the decision for a county wide mask mandate if the need were to arise. It was noted that the decision would be at the discretion of the commission. After a brief discussion, commissioner Hodge noted that he would not be in favor of a mask mandate for Greenwood County. Lindsey responded by referencing increased numbers and recommended that individuals wear masks and continue to social distance.

Spradlin moved to adjourn. Hodge seconded. No vote was held.

It was then noted that Resolution 21-10, pertaining to county budgets, needed revisions. Fox moved to make revisions as follows; moving \$15,000 from county commission equipment reserve to the courthouse general account, moving \$14,000 from County Clerk equipment reserve fund to courthouse general account and moving \$36,000 from the courthouse general equipment reserve fund to the courthouse general fund. Hodge seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Spradlin moved to adjourn at 10:07 a.m. Hodge seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

ATTEST: Kathy Robison  
Kathy Robison, County Clerk

[Signature]  
Ben Fox, Chairman

[Signature]  
Roy Ballard, Vice Chairman

[Signature]  
Chuck Spradlin, Member

[Signature]  
Paul Hodge, Member

[Signature]  
Robert Joe Morgan, Member