

**COMMISSION MEETING  
FEBRUARY 22<sup>ND</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 Roy Ballard, Paul Hodge, Chuck Spradlin, Robert Joe Morgan, Kathy Robison County Clerk and County Counselor Paul Dean.

Commissioners led everyone present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Ballard made a motion to approve February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021 Minutes. Commissioner Morgan seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

Road and Bridge Supervisor Darrel Chrisman informed commissioners he had received the contract for Christian Hills Bridge. Commissioner Spradlin made a motion to approve the contract provided pertaining to Christian Hills Bridge. Commissioner Hodge seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0. Chrisman stated the cost associated with removing a portion of the hill will come in at \$200,000 to \$400,000 over budget. He stated that more information will be made available once the geology report is received. County contracted engineer Michael Maris has been looking into alternatives to avoid the additional cost. Commissioner Fox expressed his concerns regarding keeping the bridge open while construction is being completed. The decision was made to wait until the geology report was available for review before discussing the matter further. Chrisman presented commissioners with information regarding the purchase of a semi discussed at a previous meeting. Commissioner Ballard made a motion to approve the purchase of a semi for the Road and Bridge Department in the amount of \$67,347. Commissioner Morgan seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0. Darrel told commissioners that Michael Maris will be in town next to look at Bitler Bridge.

Commissioners reviewed Treasurer's report.

Commissioner Hodge made a motion to approve special payables in the amount of \$5,130.70. Commissioner Ballard seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Spradlin made a motion to approve payables in the amount of \$306,690.09. Commissioner Ballard seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Hodge made a motion to approve payroll in the amount of \$120,911.12. Commissioner Morgan seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

County Clerk Kathy Robison presented information to commissioners regarding COVID-19 and sick leave. Robison stated that in the past the county followed federal government COVID pay, in the event an employee was quarantined. She stated this plan concluded December 31, 2020. A brief discussion ensued regarding the previously agreed upon decision of the commission to leave said pay in the hands of the department heads, provided it is in their budget to do so. Commissioner Spradlin made a motion to continue the same plan from last year, effective January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021. Commissioner Hodge seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0. EMS Director Brian Mongeau posed questions regarding his part-time employees and the COVID pay situation. County counselor Paul Dean stated that the commission should approach the subject on a case by case basis. Robison then presented commissioners with the contract that Greenwood County has with Advantage, which is slated to expire in March of 2021. Commissioner Ballard made a motion to approve renewing said agreement. Commissioner Morgan seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Ballard made a motion to approve Barney Nordmeyer as Salem township treasurer. Commissioner Hodge seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Hodge made a motion to approve Jeff Pittman as Salt-Springs township trustee. Commissioner Fox seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

Amanda Cunningham with CrossWinds provided commissioners with information regarding their business. Cunningham stated that CrossWinds is a non-profit business in which funding comes from third party fees, grants and fundraisers. Commissioner Hodge posed questions regarding the impact of COVID-19 on mental health; Amanda responded that suicide rates for urban areas had increased. Cunningham stated that their goal this year is to offer tele-video services to clients.

Sheriff Heath Samuels presented commissioner with employment verification for Destiny Bratton for the position of dispatcher at a rate of \$12 per hour. Commissioner Spradlin made a motion to approve hiring Bratton. Commissioner Ballard seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0. Samuels then expressed concerns pertaining to the Madison tower contract with KwiKom that had been discussed at previous

meetings. Samuels stated that 20 years was not sufficient in regards to the amount of time emergency departments were guaranteed space on the tower. Samuels requested an additional 40 feet area be afforded for future expansion; in addition to reserved tower space at 500 to 520 feet. Legal counsel Paul Dean noted that first right of refusal is included within the contract. Dean then stated that he would draft the language and request the time limit be removed.

Treasurer Donna Olsen stated she would like to install a permanent plexi-glass in the Treasurer's office. She also expressed concerns regarding electrical issues in her office. Following a brief discussion regarding ideas and specs for changes to the Treasurer's office, the decision was made to seek bids before revisiting the discussion.

Emergency Director Levi Vinson reported that the annual Household Hazardous Waste inspection has been completed. He stated the inspection went well with the exception of the doors. Vinson stated one of the doors on the Noxious Weed building has swelling due to the recent inclement weather and a piece of the door had nearly fallen off. He said that the door to the other entrance to the building is also in poor condition. Vinson then presented a bid for the purchase of five doors from Home Lumber; 2 doors for Noxious Weed department in the amount of \$1,640 and three doors for HHW in the amount of \$2,550. Commissioner Spradlin made a motion to approve said purchase in the amount of \$4,190 total. Commissioner Morgan seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0. Vinson then provided commissioners with a bid from Prairieland Partners of Emporia for the purchase of a UTV. Vinson stated the current UTV is shared among departments; therefore multiple departments may need to utilize the vehicle at the same time. Vinson continued, informing commissioners that he sought the bid from Prairieland because of the support they provided during both tornadoes that hit Greenwood County in recent years. Commissioner Ballard raised concerns regarding removing some unnecessary features to reduce the cost of the vehicle. Commissioner Spradlin made a motion to approve spending up to \$18,200 for the purchase of a new UTV to be utilized by the Noxious Weed Department. Commissioner Morgan seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

Maintenance Supervisor Jason Findley informed commissioners he is still looking into door locks for the courthouse.

Commissioner Hodge made a motion to adjourn at 10:37 a.m. Commissioner Ballard seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

The next commission meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 1, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.

ATTEST: Kathy Robison  
Kathy Robison, County Clerk

Ben Fox  
Ben Fox, Chairman

Roy Ballard  
Roy Ballard, Vice Chairman

Chuck Spradlin  
Chuck Spradlin, Member

Paul Hodge  
Paul Hodge, Member

Robert Joe Morgan  
Robert Joe Morgan, Member