

Commissioner Meeting
July 2, 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, Kathy Robison County Clerk, and County Counselor Paul Dean.

No commission meeting minutes.

Commissioner Fox talked about how well organized everything ran after the tornado June 26, 2018. The response from people, other organizations/agencies, counties that came to aide us in the cleanup process with the use of their tools and equipment and how impressed he was with Westar in their response time, and dedication to get the power back on as quickly as they did. Commissioner Fox thanked everyone for their help. City Administrator Ian Martell was also present and discussing the tornado, as well, and brought up the meals provided by Community Linc. Martell relayed that there has been some confusion about red tags left on some of the damaged residences and explained, "A red tag does not mean the structure is unlivable. It just means there's something seriously wrong with it." They can still enter the property with caution. He added that a group of building assessors will be back this week to continue the damage assessment. Commissioner Fox also mentioned that Arianna Mock from the Health Department did a great job of distributing information and suggested she become the county's public information officer (PIO) to provide "one point of contact". Martell and Levi Vinson, Emergency Management Director agreed that she did a good job gathering and distributing information.

There was no Road and Bridge Report.

Commissioner Spradlin made a motion to approve EP18-05 (Declaring a State of Local Disaster Emergency for Greenwood County, Kansas, proclaimed June 28, 2018). Commissioner Hodge seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Commissioner Spradlin made a motion to approve EP18-06 (Declaring a State of Local Disaster Emergency for Greenwood County, Kansas, proclaimed July 4, 2018). Commissioner Hodge seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Commissioner Spradlin made a motion to approve a part-time employment verification for Jonathan Andrews as an EMT at \$11.35 per hour. Commissioner Hodge seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Commissioner Hodge made a motion to approve payroll in the amount of \$94,221.72. Commissioner Spradlin seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Commissioner Spradlin made a motion to approve payables in the amount of \$151,690.88. Commissioner Hodge seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Commissioner Fox mentioned that this tornado did not meet the FEMA threshold for damages, so FEMA funding will not be available.

Appraiser Jami Clark asked commissioners if they want her to begin proceedings to allow tax abatement for houses that are heavily damaged from the tornado, as the county did during the tornado of 2016. The abatement is only available for dwellings, no businesses or outbuildings. The house must be damaged at least 50 percent, then up to 50 percent of the taxes that are due in December can be abated. Property owners need to come in to the Appraiser's Office to get the paperwork started if they plan to participate. Commissioner Fox made a motion to approve the tornado tax abatement. Commissioner Spradlin seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Michael Marsalla and Jeff Ralls with Evergreen approached commissioners about recycling trees and other wood waste for biofuel production in Wichita. After some discussion, they said there would be a fee, maybe half of the cost of what the county would pay to dispose of the trees themselves. Levi Vinson, Emergency Management/Noxious Weed Director said that they had 80 large trucks and other equipment in town today to move all the wood to a designated spot at the landfill, all on a volunteer basis, with donated services, so there is essentially no cost to the county. No decisions were made.

Linda Snyder and Nancy Mock presented the 2019 budget request for the Program for the Elderly in the amount of \$89,461. The 2018 budget request was \$87,000.

County Clerk Kathy Robison presented the 2019 budget request in the amount of \$166,884. The 2018 budget request was \$147,318. The 2019 Election budget request was submitted in the amount of \$104,250. The 2018 budget request was \$95,280.

Commissioner Spradlin proposed an idea of adding a one-half percent sales tax for three years to the one cent sales tax the hospital already receives in order to get them on even ground with their finances. Spradlin figured adding the increase would generate approximately \$1,000,000 for the hospital to help them reduce their payables that are approximately \$850,000. Commissioner Fox said, "The nice thing about the sales tax is that everyone coming through town is sharing the burden, not just the taxpayers, like with the mill levy." Spradlin mentioned that he knows the city is interested in proposing their own sales tax to pay for repaving US54 through the city. Commissioner Fox suggested they ask for one-half percent and the hospital ask for one-half percent, as the one percent sales tax for the library/pool is about to come off of the books. Commissioner Spradlin asked County Counselor Paul Dean if he can draft a resolution to put it on the General Election ballot in November. "Then it really puts it back on the people to see if they truly want a hospital," he added, "We really do have a CEO that is making a difference." The county currently provides 3 mills, which comes to a little over \$170,000 a year. Commissioner Fox asked if he is thinking they would not do the mill levy, and he said, "no." Commissioner Spradlin mentioned several times that this was for discussion purposes only, at this time. Commissioner Spradlin has also discussed the proposal with Hospital CEO Sandra Dickerson and one other board member. Spradlin said, "I'm convinced they've got management in place that's making a difference." Commissioner Spradlin said he thought one of them should go to the hospital board and discuss this proposal with them.

Sheriff Heath Samuels presented a deal for a 2016 Ford Explorer SUV with 38,000 miles for \$20,000 from another county. The SUV is complete with many items they usually pay extra for, i.e. lights, etc. and is listed well under the Kelly Blue Book price. The commissioners approved the purchase and the funds are to be taken out of Capital Outlay then Equipment Reserve.

Commissioner Fox made a motion to approve a 15 minute legal executive session with Emergency Management/Noxious Weed Director Levi Vinson and County Counselor Paul Dean. Commissioner Hodge seconded the motion. The motion carried. An additional 5 minutes was added to the executive session.

No decision was made.

County Counselor Paul Dean mentioned they received a road closure petition several months ago, where the road sits on an angle, across a bridge. The bridge has been closed. However, we have a policy, that if a landowner objects to a road closure, we do not close the road, and there has been an objection. The commissioners were all in agreement that the bridge will remain closed, at this time, but the road will not. The road is located in Quincy Township.

Commissioner Fox made a motion to waive the tipping fee at the landfill for all material generated from the tornado occurring in Greenwood County 6-26-2018. Commissioner Spradlin seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Commissioner Fox said he will follow-up with KDHE about the state waiving their fee, as well.

Commissioners took a 5 minute break.

Commissioner Fox made a motion for a 10 minute executive session for personnel for employee performance review with Road and Bridge Supervisor Roger Lowe and County Counselor Paul Dean. An additional 5 minutes was added to the executive session.


No decision was made.

At 11:24 a.m. Commissioner Fox made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Hodge seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Calendar:

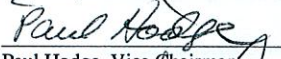
July 9th – Next Commission Meeting – 9:00 a.m.

July 26th – GW Co. Hospital Board Mtg @ 5:30 p.m. @ GW Co Hospital Conference Rm

ATTEST: 
Kathy Robison, County Clerk



Ben Fox, Chairman



Paul Hodge, Vice Chairman



Chuck Spradlin, Member