

Commissioner Meeting
September 11, 2017

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

No minutes at the commission meeting to approve.

Roger Lowe, Road and Bridge Supervisor, reported that they are going to have a Safety Meeting September 20th; Amber Woodie, Office Professional has been working on the Ladd Bridge permit, they have been trying to get ahold of Michael Marris again; they've received the paperwork back from the two landowners for the Norwegian Church Bridge Project; tax exemption certificate for chip/seal; talked to a contractor, who had talked to KDOT, about a way to fix Ladd Bridge, Lowe said they will check with Marris and make sure it is okay to do it that way. Lowe said they have been doing some ditching. Commissioner Hind asked if anyone is mowing. Lowe said Ritchie. Lowe reminded commissioners that State Street Bridge would be closed September 13th - September 18th to work on an approach on the south side. Commissioner Hind asked Lowe if there was enough work to keep employees busy. Lowe said he has a lot to do. Commissioner Hind asked if it was a good use of time to take two out just to see that contractor. Lowe said they were looking for other problems too. There was some discussion then Commissioner Hind made a motion for a 10 minute executive session on personnel performance review with Roger Lowe, Road and Bridge Supervisor. Commissioner Hodge seconded the motion. The motion carried. There was an additional 20 minutes added to the executive session.

No decision was made.

The commissioners viewed the weekly Treasurer's Report.

Commissioner Hind made a motion to approve payroll in the amount of \$89,694.57. Commissioner Hodge seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Commissioner Hodge made a motion to approve payables in the amount of \$163,011.06. Commissioner Hind seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Undersheriff Randy Cox reported that they would be picking up the first of one of their new trucks today or tomorrow.

Leta Divine, of South Salem Township, asked commissioners if they would consider renting the use of a county blade if the township paid the county employee's wages, as well. Specifically, Jerry Thornton, she had already talked to him and he was okay with it. The commissioners said they would think about it, but to come back next week and discuss it further with them.

Commissioner Hind made a motion for a 10 minute executive session for personnel performance review with Arianna Mock, Health Department Clerk and Paul Dean, County Counselor. Commissioner Hodge seconded the motion. The motion carried. An additional 5 minutes was added to the executive session.

No decision was made.

The City of Eureka mistakenly received a bill from the landfill with charges for debris removal from the wind storm. Commissioners directed the bill be disregarded as the City had permission to dispose of debris with no charge.

Commissioners reported that they had received phone calls from people that had heard a rumor on Facebook that they were closing the hospital. They made it clear that they never made any such statement and that it was a false rumor.

Emergency Management/Noxious Weed Director, Levi Vinson, updated the commissioners on an appeal the county submitted for damages from the May 2015 storms. FEMA denied the \$49,000 claim because of several bridges that were repaired on township roads and the townships had already received funds for repairing the roads, however, the county is still responsible for maintaining the bridges on township roads (as written in state statute KSA 68-1107). FEMA initially denied them as "duplicate services" and explained that any bridge over 25 square feet would be the county's responsibility, even when on a township road and should be a separate claim. After further investigation, it appeared that the figures were entered incorrectly by the FEMA representatives at the time of the claim and needed to be redone to only include the county's liability. Vinson said it was a failure on FEMA, KDEM, and the county's part because they were all on the project and didn't catch it. Vinson added that he was going to ask FEMA to rewrite the project, however it will be significantly less than the original claim of \$49,000. Vinson also told commissioners that FEMA did not declare the August 2017 storms in Kansas a disaster, as FEMA decided to only factor uninsured claims. He said they don't always do it that way, but it is an option. By only counting uninsured claims Kansas did not meet the \$4.2 million threshold.

Commissioner Hind made a motion for a 10 minute executive session for personnel review with Levi Vinson, Emergency Management/Noxious Weed Director and Paul Dean, County Counselor. Commissioner Hodge seconded the motion. The motion carried. An additional 5 minutes was added to the executive session.

After returning from executive session, the commissioners announced that the Noxious Weed Department will be taking over the county's mowing and road signage duties. Road and Bridge employee Colby Nobles will move to the Noxious Weed Department next month as an employee of that department, however, he will still be paid by Road and Bridge. Vinson said most Weed Departments are responsible for mowing and spraying and believed it would be more efficient. Vinson added that residents should still contact the Road and Bridge office when they notice a sign problem, as it is staffed during business hours.

County Counselor Paul Dean, who is also Madison's Mayor, reported that the Greenwood County Sheriff had been looking for potential office space in Madison that would allow officers to have interview rooms and a place to write reports when they are in the northern part of the county without having to drive back to Eureka. Dean approached the school board about their vacant board office that is used for storage and they still pay utilities on the building. The school board is planning on meeting this week, but discussed with Dean a lease of \$1 and the city already approved to cover the water, trash and sewer expenses, along with half of the internet bill.

A discussion was held about renewing the search for an Administrator in the Health Department. It was decided to widen the advertising to Lyon and Butler counties and to continue advertising in the county papers for an Administrator who is also an RN.

At 10:43 a.m. Commissioner Hodge made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Hind seconded the motion. The motion carried.


Calendar:

September 18th - Next Commission Meeting - 9:00 a.m.

September 25th - GW Co. Hosp. Board Mtg @ 5:30p.m. - GW Co. Home Health Conference Room



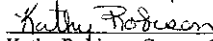
Ben Fox, Chairman



Paul Hodge, Vice Chairman



Brian Hind, Member

ATTEST: 

Kathy Robison, County Clerk