

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, Mac Obourn, Preston Evenson, County Counselor Paul Dean and County Clerk Kathy Robison.

Commissioners led everyone present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

***Fox moved to approve September 25, 2023 minutes as written. Evenson seconded. Motion carried 5-0.***

Road and Bridge report:

- Interim Road Supervisor, John Schouten, reported that one more load of recycling will go out this year. Following a brief discussion regarding the cost of recycling services in Greenwood County, commissioners made the decision to discontinue this service.
- The bridge located near 250<sup>th</sup> and AA50 Roads and Short's bridge have been poured.
- Road and Bridge will need to contact a contractor to rebuild fence that was damaged/removed during completion of the Tadpole Bridge project. Schouten is slated to look into this matter.
- Schouten provided commissioners with a \$13,300 invoice for geotechnical engineering pertaining to a bridge located west of Short's Bridge. (JE 23- 30)
- Commissioner Evenson suggested checking into utilizing U Road for Apple Short's Bridge.
- A bridge south of Neal is in need of repair.
- Commissioner Evenson would like a copy of bridge inspections from the Road and Bridge Office.
- Schouten is slated to travel to Wichita to look at the possible purchase of a freightliner to add to the fleet.
- Schouten is also looking into a vehicle that is on Purple Wave.

***Obourn moved to approve the purchase of a dump-truck located on Purple Wave for an estimated amount of \$132,000; adding an additional 10% for buyer's fees, for a total amount of \$142,000. Fox seconded. Motion carried 5-0.***

***Evenson moved to approve allocating \$13,300 for the cost of geotechnical engineering for Short's Bridge. Fox seconded. Motion carried 5-0.***

Commissioners reviewed August fee reports. No decisions were made.

***Evenson moved to approve payables in the amount of \$265,429.45. Fox seconded. Motion carried 5-0.***

***Fox moved to approve payroll in the amount of \$134,721.16. Obourn seconded. Motion carried 5-0.***

Extension Supervisor Ben Sims provided commissioners with an Extension update. Ballard posed questions regarding the nitrate poisoning and testing of Johnsongrass. Sims noted that he is not aware of testing of Johnsongrass in Kansas.

Melissa Landis, with Empower House Ministries, provided commissioners with program updates.

Commissioners were provided with Lucas Herb-Mullin's resignation from the Hospital Board.

Commissioners were provided with value changes for November 2022 to July 2023.

***Obourn moved to approve a ten-minute executive session with Noxious Weed Director Jennifer West to discuss personnel. Evenson seconded. Motion carried 5-0. Meeting to reconvene at 9:50 a.m. No decisions were made.***

***Evenson moved to approve a fifty cent raise for Noxious Weed employee Robert Cohen; Cohen will move from \$18 to \$18.50 due to receiving his HHW certification. Fox seconded. Motion carried 5-0.***

***Fox moved to approve a ten-minute executive session with Greg Rawlings to discuss personnel. Evenson seconded. Motion carried 5-0. Meeting to reconvene at 10:02 a.m. No decisions were made.***

A representative from Dave's Network Plus would like to be added to the vendor list for bridge/concrete work. Commissioners voiced no opposition.

Janice Brown, a concerned citizen, attended the meeting to discuss possible fencing repair. It was noted that the land will be auctioned soon; commissioners unanimously agreed that fixing the fence is a moot point. Although, the listing should include that the fencing is inadequate per Kansas Law.

Sheriff Heath Samuels suggested the county purchase a tree in Marvin "Bud" Repstine's name to plant on the courthouse lawn. Repstine was a long-time employee of the Greenwood County Sheriff's Office. Commissioners voiced no opposition.

**On the Road Petition to vacate 310<sup>th</sup> road, Section 12 Township 23 Range 11E, in Madison Township, the Commissioners received two (2) letters from landowners in that area wanting the road to remain open. Commissioner Evenson made a motion not to close 310<sup>th</sup> road, and to place minimum maintenance road sign at each end of the road. Commissioner Obourn seconded. Motion carried 5-0.**

Commissioner Hodge discussed Otter Creek Township Bridge on 60<sup>th</sup> and J road. No decisions were made.

**The issue of cost of recycling was discussed with John Schouten. At this time the recycling is costing the county \$50,000 a year with little return. Commissioner Ballard stated, he feels that the money could be better spent in the county. Commissioner Obourn made a motion the stop the recycling as of November 1<sup>st</sup>, with notice being placed in the paper to notify the public. Commissioner Evenson seconded. Motion carried 5-0.**

Commissioner request that employee evaluations be completed by December.

**Commissioners Obourn motioned, for a 5-minute break. Commissioner Fox seconded. Motion carried 5-0. Commission meeting reconvened after 5-minute break.**

**Commissioner Fox made a motion for a 10-minute executive session on non-elected personal. Commissioner Hodge seconded. Motion carried 5-0. Meeting to reconvene at 11:01 am, Meeting reconvened with no decisions made.**

**Commissioner Obourn motioned for a 10-minute executive session on non-elected personal. Commissioner Evenson seconded. Motion carried 5-0. Meeting to reconvene at 11:22. Meeting reconvened with no decisions made.**

**At 11:25 A.M., Commissioner Obourn motioned to adjourn commission meeting. Commissioner Evenson seconded. Motion carried 5-0.**

ATTEST: Kathy Robinson  
Kathy Robinson, 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