

The Board of County Commissioners met in regular session at 9:00 a.m. with all members and the County Clerk present. Ulysses News Reporter, Bene Garcia was in attendance. Pastor Kelly Gindlesberger provided prayer and Commissioner Shapland led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The monthly department head meeting was held with the following in attendance: Rita Gee, County Treasurer; Jerry Jo Deckert, EMS Director; John Crosby, Fire Chief; Toni Irvin, Interim Health Department Administrator; Mari Honstead, Civic Center Manager; Don Button, Emergency Management Coordinator; Dana McDaniel, Register of Deeds; Lance Babcock, Sheriff; and O'Lavonne Michael, Senior Citizen Director.

During the department head meeting Commissioner Shapland presented the service awards. Kathy Russell attended this portion of the meeting. Service award honorees were: Sheriff's Office - Lance Babcock 35 years, Kathy Schwarzer 20 years, Jason Brown 10 years; Emergency Management - Don Button 15 years; Road Department - Robert Russell 30 years; Transfer Station - Delessa Lane 10 years; Senior Center - O'Lavonne Michael 35 years; Treasurer's Office - Teresa Ochoa 15 years; and part time Ambulance - Kim McGaughey 10 years; Robert Berry 25 years.

Sealed bids to replace the last three old roof top air condition/heating units on the Health Department/Senior Center building were opened: Weber Refrigeration and Heating for \$31,500.00; and Ross of Ulysses for \$22,540.92. Toni Irvin, Interim Health Department Administrator, and John Crosby, Ross of Ulysses, attended this portion of the meeting. Marty Long made the motion to accept the low bid from Ross of Ulysses for three units, installation and disposal of old units, at a cost not to exceed \$22,540.92, and for this expense to be paid from the Special Equipment fund. Janet Stewart seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

A bid opening was held for 5 acres more or less of the 217.9 acres of land owned by Grant County located in Kearny County. The County's primary use of the land is for excavation of sand and gravel for Grant County roads. The Jury's homestead borders the edge of the property and they want to ensure the County did not dig to close to their home. Janet Stewart made the motion to accept the sole bid of \$5,250.00 from Michael and Shirley Jury to purchase 5 acres of land. Marty Long seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Randy Dick and Derik Dick with Kaw Valley Insurance, requested permission to quote Grant County on health insurance. Commissioners unanimously agreed to allow Kaw Valley to quote insurance.

The 2017 Grant County observed holiday and commissioner meeting dates calendar was reviewed and approved by commissioners.

A written request from the Civic Center Manager with bids for materials to repair a Horse Barn and new batteries for a scissor lift was reviewed. Marty Long made the motion to accept the low bid from CarQuest for a new set of batteries for the scissor lift at a cost not

to exceed \$1,976.00, and for this expense to be paid from the Special Equipment fund. Janet Stewart seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. Janet Stewart made the motion to allow the expense from Ulysses Building Supply to repair old gates, a storm door, and broken boards at a cost not to exceed \$951.81, and for this expense to be paid from the County Building fund. Marty Long seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Judy Keusler, Bill Stewart, and Jerry Jo Deckert, Grant County Community Foundation, presented a Proclamation for the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Grant County Gives Week. Commissioner Shapland proclaimed October 30<sup>th</sup> through November 5<sup>th</sup> as Grant County Gives Week and expressed the hope that this year's observance will promote community betterment throughout the County.

Jerry Jo Deckert, EMS Director, met with commissioners and requested an executive session. Marty Long made the motion to recess into executive session for 10 minutes with the EMS Director to discuss matters of non-elected personnel. Kevin Shapland seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. After 10 minutes the meeting continued in open session. Commissioner Long requested Ms. Deckert return after lunch to discuss her request. Later in the day Jerry Jo Deckert returned and requested permission to hire a full time employee. After a lengthy discussion, Janet Stewart made the motion to allow Barbara Groomer to be hired as a full time employee starting immediately. Marty Long seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Tim Dieker and Jeff Blundell with Chaosland Services, met with commissioners to discuss Road 19 and voiced concerns on the future road maintenance. Commissioner Long assured Mr. Dieker the road would be high quality and maintained as needed.

Charles (Chuck) Hacker, Board on Aging Member met with commissioners and requested an executive session. Janet Stewart made the motion to recess into executive session for 10 minutes with Mr. Hacker to discuss matters of non-elected personnel. Marty Long seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. After 10 minutes the meeting continued in open session. Commissioners accepted the resignation of Mr. Hacker from the Board on Aging effective immediately.

Larry Sharp, Member Service Representative for Kansas County Association Multiline Pool (KCAMP) reviewed their services and presented Grant County with an award for charter membership of 25 years.

The commissioners recessed at 11:45 a.m. for lunch at Bob Wilson Memorial Grant County Hospital (BWMGCH) with Scott Taylor, St. Catherine Hospital President/CEO, and BWMGCH Executive Team: Amanda Vaughn, James Forrest, Jr., Deanna Mustin, Dr. Patrick Barker, Betty Baker, Cindy Howard-Reeves, and Tammy Oxford; Centura/BWMGCH Board Members, Gary Riley, Lynn Teeter and Darrin Figgins. Mr. Taylor informed commissioners the hospital is looking for two more physicians that wanted to practice in rural America. Dr. Pamela Stewart will start in January. The new Emergency Room Clinic is a good fit for the community and is running around 10 patients daily. Ms. Vaughn explained the hospital will start on a new electronic health records system in the near future. Dr. Barker shared positive comments on management and the mission to quality service.

Commissioners reconvened after lunch and met with Larry Kepley, Care Home Board Member. Mr. Kepley requested commissioners hold off on signing a broker contract for 60 days so John Grace could investigate the possibility of starting a 501(c) 3. Commissioners were unanimous they were moving forward with the brokerage agreement and encouraged the Care Home Board to bid on the facility through SLIB, if they wanted to pursue the 501(c) 3. Next, Mr. Kepley inquired about Road 19 and the federal money used to build it. Commissioner Long discussed the use of federal money and explained the road was turned over to the County to maintain after the project.

Janet Stewart made the motion to recess into executive session for 10 minutes to discuss matters of non-elected personnel. Marty Long seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. After 10 minutes the meeting continued in open session with no action taken.

Rita Gee, County Treasurer, and Jessica Akers, County Attorney, discussed delinquent mineral and real estate taxes. After discussion, Commissioner Long made the motion to have the County Attorney send a letter to delinquent real estate and mineral property owners. Kevin Shapland seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. In December the delinquent list will be revisited to see if a tax sale will be needed.

Commissioners recessed to the Senior Center/Health Department building to look over the outside of the building. Jesus Barrios, Barrios Construction, and Lavonne Michael, Senior Center Director joined the commissioners. After review it was decided Barrios Construction was doing a satisfactory job and should be allowed to finish painting the building. Commissioners requested the check for Barrios Construction Service be held until a commissioner could do a walk through with Mr. Barrios. While commissioners were on site they discussed the plan to prevent the building from leaking. Commissioner Long instructed the clerk to get bids for installing metal on the south end of the building due mortar deterioration. Commissioner Long also instructed the clerk to get bids to concrete along the front of the entire building.

Commissioners resumed in the Commissioners Room. Marty Long made the motion to approve the minutes of the September 19 and September 28, 2016 meetings along with the claims against the various funds of the county, payroll total \$144,280.13 dated September 28th; voucher numbers ending 151374 totaling \$386,703.09. Janet Stewart seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

The commissioners adjourned at 3:20 p.m., to meet again in regular session on October 18, 2016 at 9:00 a.m.

  
Sheila Brown, County Clerk



  
Kevin Shapland, Chairman