

The Board of County Commissioners met in regular session at 9:00 a.m. with all members and County Clerk present. Commissioner McGaughey led the Pledge of Allegiance and Pastor Steve Swann provided prayer.

Ulysses News Reporter, Sarah Loewen was in attendance.

Shaun Minks, Public Works Supervisor, presented a bid and requested permission to purchase two trailers to be used at the Transfer Station. The present trailers were purchased in 2014, have had hard use and are needing replaced. The five-year equipment plan was reviewed, and discussion was held on the length of time it takes to get equipment. No action taken on trailer bid. Later in the day a damaged overhead door at the Transfer Station was discussed. Commissioner Long instructed the clerk to contact the Public Works Supervisor and relay a camera needs installed at the Transfer Station Disposal Building.

Terri Trotman, County Treasurer, requested permission to remove Rae Borthwick from the signature cards at Grant County Bank. It was the consensus of commissioners to remove the terminated employee from the banking signature cards.

Commissioner Long announced he and Commissioner Martin toured County owned facilities the prior week. They were looking at the facility, department equipment and possible future needs.

James Biddle, Sheriff, presented pay raise sheets for all Sheriff Department employees for commissioner review. After discussion it was consensus to review the budget and requested raises at the next regular meeting.

Monica Walker, Extension Agent, Brandy Wilson, Office Professional, and Shawna Knight, Snap-It Educator, met with commissioners. Ms. Walker introduced her new staff and explained programs, funding sources, and future happenings at the Extension.

John Martin motioned to approve minutes for the February 7 and February 13, 2023, meetings along with claims against various funds of the County, including the addition of final payment for the fire truck, payroll total \$136,037.88 dated February 8, 2023, and voucher numbers ending 169070 totaling \$329,013.02. Mark McGaughey seconded motion, and it carried unanimously.

Shawn Harding, HMN Architects, met with commissioners and introduced his company. James Biddle, Sheriff, attended this portion of the meeting. Discussion was held on expectations of a remodel or new jail and the process if HMN was chosen for the project. Mr. Harding stated his firm would give the County a proposal for pre-referendum, it would consist of first starting with wants and needs and get estimates of space and costs; be available and speak at town hall meetings; and prepare a visual piece to use at meeting to sell the project. Then if the referendum passed another proposal would be drawn up using percent of construction for the project. The Sheriff and Mr. Harding left the meeting to walk through the

jail. At 12:15 p.m. returned to give a first site review. First look problems with remodeling existing building: moisture in basement, kitchen does not meet code, wiring catastrophe, open duck work, logistically growing the existing building. HMN will review building plans and give a determination. Mr. Harding stated he will prepare a proposal and mention two options remodel or new construction.

Bob Dale Passini, Economic Development Director, and Board Members, Jeff Pfingsten, Samantha Sanchez, Kristy Frazee, and Shawn Rider met with commissioners. Mr. Pfingsten led the conversation requesting no ad valorem taxes be charged on the property just purchased by Economic Development located at 301 E. Grant and sited K.S.A. 79-221 as the reason it could be exempted. After discussion the group was encouraged to fill out a Board of Tax Appeal form to apply for the exemption. Next, Mr. Pfingsten stated the Economic Development Board has changed their bylaws to allow the County only one appointee member, and the City only one appointee member. The Economic Development Board will choose five members at an annual meeting and will have the ability to have more with corporate membership. The old bylaws allowed the County four members and the City four members. Mr. Passini commented the County could use their appointee to send requests or inquiries to and from Economic Development as the City would with their appointee. John Martin motioned to appoint Rachel Thooft to the Economic Development Board as the one County appointee under the new bylaws of Economic Development. Mark McGaughey seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

Ulysses Stampede Rodeo Board Members, Bravane Phelps and Larry Borthwick, met with commissioners. Mr. Phelps announced Ulysses Stampede Rodeo won Rodeo of the Year for the second year running. Rodeo dates for 2023 are July 15th and 16th with same format as previous year. Next, an arena uses proposal was reviewed. It was decided to have anyone wanting to use the Rodeo Arena contact the Rodeo Board directly. The board member working the arena would get the Hold Harmless Waiver signed by user and returned to the County. Thirdly, Rodeo Board bylaws were reviewed, and discussion was held on board members. It was commissioner consensus board members could be appointed after the yearly Fair Rodeo. The board will update the bylaws to reflect the change, along with term limits, and add the board will be appointed by County Commissioners to comply with insurance liability coverage. Fourthly, the new chain link fence is waiting on permission to be installed. The clerk was directed to check with FAA on location of fence. Lastly, the Rodeo Board asked commissioners to consider allowing beer to be sold within the Rodeo fenced area. It was commissioner consensus the Ulysses Stampede Board could investigate having beer sales if proper permits and safety measures could be arranged. The monies raised will be placed in the Rodeo Board checking account to be audited yearly during County audit. The Rodeo Board will research and bring a plan back to commissioners.

A building agreement for housing a bus belonging to Southwest Health Transport was reviewed. Mark McGaughey motioned to accept an agreement between the County and Southwest Health Transport to utilize one stall of the building located at 1225 N. Colorado to house a bus for a period of one year. John Martin seconded motion, and it carried unanimously.

The Road Department wage increases, and a new hire were reviewed. Mark McGaughey motioned to approve the wage increases, new hire and wage as recommended by the Public Works Supervisor. John Martin seconded motion, and it carried unanimously.

John Martin motioned to approve the County Clerk's part time hire and negotiated wage. Mark McGaughey seconded motion, and it carried unanimously.

Mark McGaughey motioned to recess at 2:15 p.m. to reconvene at 6:30 p.m. at the Cooper-Clark Room of the Library. John Martin seconded motion, and it carried unanimously.

At 6:30 p.m. Commissioner Long brought the joint City and County Meeting to order with all members, the Sheriff, and County Clerk present. He welcomed the city leaders, Ulysses News, and citizens. Those attending from the City of Ulysses Governing Body were Mayor Tim McCauley; City Council Members, Caleb Woods, John Duran, Mark Diaz, Terry Maas, Ken Warner, and Sam Guy; City Clerk Sarah Britton; and Chief of Police, Ron Vagher. Commissioner Long announced the meeting was primarily for city council but wanted to recognize any and all citizens that wanted to speak at the end of the program. Commissioners will allow anyone speaking 5 minutes due to the number attending. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss building a new jail and to discuss whether unifying city and county law enforcement would be beneficial. Commissioner Long gave an update on the condition of the jail and justification for needing to start the process. Commissioner Martin explained discussion was needed on unification before the planning process started on the new jail facility. Commissioner McGaughey talked about prior attempts to look at the jail needs.

Unifying of Law Enforcement - The mayor and five city council members each spoke relaying the City of Ulysses was not interested in unifying law enforcement. The council wanted to remain in control of city officers and did not see that changing in the future. The public did not speak during this discussion.

Building Jail Facility - The mayor and four city council members relayed they were in favor of building a new jail due to the condition of the present jail. Several city police officers joined in the conversation agreeing a new jail was needed and the present one was becoming unsafe. The public asked what would the current building be turned into if a new facility was built? Commissioners relayed it had not been determined if the current building would be remodeled or abandoned.

Mark McGaughey motioned to adjourn at 7:35 p.m. John Martin seconded motion, and it carried unanimously. Commissioners will meet again in special session on Monday, February 27, 2023, at 1:30 p.m. with Treanor HL Architects.


Sheila Brown, County Clerk




Marty Long, Chairman