

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

Lonnie Lee, a local citizen, attended the meeting as an observer.

The monthly department head meeting was held with the following in attendance: Shaun Minks, Public Works Supervisor; Jeff Baier, EMS Director/EM Coordinator; John Crosby, Fire Chief; Terri Trotman, County Treasurer; Cindy Wellbrock, County Appraiser; James Biddle, Sheriff; Denise James, Health Department Administrator; and Mari Honstead, Civic Center Manager.

John Martin motioned to approve minutes for the December 19, 2023, meeting along with claims against various funds of the County, payroll totals \$165,643.05 dated December 29, 2023, and voucher numbers ending 171419 totaling \$431,733.66. Mark McGaughey seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

The Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) Bureau of Maintenance County Agreement to Treat Noxious Weeds was presented for approval. The agreement will allow the County to continue cost-share for noxious weed chemicals. The KDOT Agreement was reviewed and by consensus of commissioners approved.

The revised Genasys SaaS Services Agreement for a mass notification alert software system was reviewed. Marty Long motioned to approve the revisions and enter a contract with Genasys Incorporated starting January 15, 2024. John Martin seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

Marty Long motioned to adopt Resolution 24-01, a Resolution authorizing participation in the Rural Opportunity Zone Student Loan Repayment Program for calendar year 2024, with a commitment of \$3,000.00 from Grant County. Mark McGaughey seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

At 10:00 a.m., Commissioner Long opened the floor for the public forum and asked for any comments from the public. There was no participation from the public.

Discussion was held on the final maximum for the employee pay plan schedule. Marty Long motioned to raise the final maximum on the employee pay plan schedule to reflect the 4% increase given in 2024. John Martin seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously. Next, after discussion it was the consensus of commissioners to have three separate pay plan schedules, an employee pay plan schedule, an elected officials pay plan schedule, and a fire department paid volunteer pay schedule.

Marty Long motioned to recess into executive session with the County Clerk for 5 minutes to discuss an employee wage under the justification of matters of non-elected personnel. Mark McGaughey seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously. After 5 minutes the meeting continued in open session. Mark McGaughey motioned to approve the wage increase as recommended by the EMS Director for an EMT. John Martin seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

Kristi Anderson, Grant County Recreation Director, and Daron Cowan, Recreation Board Member, presented a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the development of a Back to Nature play area at the Grant County Recreation Park. The MOU is between Grant County Recreation and IMPACT Ulysses spelling out funding and responsibilities for the project. If everything is approved the Back to Nature Project will be ready for use by June. Ms. Anderson said the Dog Park Project is tabled until a later date and this project would be no cost to the County, the Recreation Board is just asking for County blessing to proceed. Marty Long motioned to allow the Grant County Recreation to construct, operate, and pay for a Back to Nature area on Grant County owned property. John Martin seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously. Next, the Recreation Director wanted to start a conversation about shared expenses on the Swimming Pool Complex property. It was the consensus of commissioners to develop a MOU and meet with the board for changes.

Bids were opened for repairs to the new Health Department located at 202 W. Kansas. Craig Malone, Project Manager, and Denise James, Health Department Administrator, attended this portion of the meeting. Bid 1 - Concrete to repair around the outside of the building: Anguiano Construction \$13,497.00, KS Barrios Construction \$20,860.26. John Martin motioned to accept the bid from Anguiano Construction for \$13,497.00, and for this expense to come from ARPA funding. Mark McGaughey seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously. Bid 2 - Plumbing for a sink, faucets, provide and install hot water heater, toilets, and tie drains and water into existing piping: TEDS Plumbing \$7,500.00, Tatro Plumbing declined to bid. Mark McGaughey motioned to accept the sole bid from TEDS Plumbing at a cost of \$7,500.00, and for this expense to come the ARPA funding. John Martin seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously. Bid 3 - Replace ceiling tile and grids: Hemmert Acoustics \$9,470.00. Marty Long motion to accept the bid from Hemmert Acoustics at a cost for labor and materials of \$9,470.00, and for this expense to come from the Health Department fund. Lastly, discussion was held on which fund to use for the December 19<sup>th</sup> bid letting for the Health Department building repairs. Marty Long motioned to use the ARPA fund for \$68,750.29 and the Health Department fund for \$28,670.00. John Martin seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

Bravane Phelps, and Michael Boyer, Business Support with Pioneer Communications, presented quotes for equipment and labor for a new phone system at the Courthouse and Road Department building. Shaun Minks, Public Works Supervisor, attended this portion of the meeting. Bids: Courthouse \$22,376.20; and Road and Bridge building \$4,407.00. John Martin motioned to accept the bid from Pioneer Communications to upgrade the phone system at the Courthouse at a cost of \$22,376.20, and for this expense to come from the County Building fund. Mark McGaughey seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously. Next, John Martin motioned to accept the bid from Pioneer Communications to upgrade the

phone system at the Road Department with quote changes of removing the VVX301 phones and adding VVX450 phones at an amended cost of \$5,175.00, and for this expense to come from the County Building fund. Mark McGaughey seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

An email from Ian Wright, Aviation Civil Engineer with Lochner Engineering, was reviewed. It was the consensus of commissioners that all Capital Improvement Plan updates are acceptable.

John Crosby, Fire Chief, relayed the Garden City Coop requested permission to use the Fire Station Meeting Room this month for a meeting of 30 to 40 employees. It was the consensus of commissioners to allow the Garden City Coop use of the Fire Department facility.

Marty Long moved to adjourn at 12:05 p.m. to meet again in regular session on Tuesday, January 16, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. Mark McGaughey seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

  
Sheila Brown, County Clerk



  
Marty Long, Chairman