

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, Tammie Hensley was in attendance. Commissioner McGaughey led the Pledge of Allegiance and Pastor Craig Kirby-Grove provided prayer.

The monthly department head meeting was held with the following in attendance: Denise James, Health Department Administrator; Terri Trotman, County Treasurer, Randy McCauley, Public Works Supervisor; Don Button, Emergency Management Coordinator; John Crosby, Fire Chief; Paul Fort, EMS Director; Mari Honstead, Civic Center Manager; and Dana McDaniel, Register of Deeds.

Discussion was held on some department heads not using proper procedure when hiring employees. It was the consensus of commissioners' proper procedure was to be used by all departments. Procedure: All new employees should be approved by the commissioners first; after approval of hire, Randy McCauley should be called to set up a pre-employment drug/alcohol test; the Health Department should be contacted to set up a pre-employment physical; after pre-employment test and physical are complete then start date can be set; all hire paperwork should be completed during the first hours or prior to starting employment.

Kevin Shapland made the motion to recess into executive session for 10 minutes with the County Clerk to discuss personal issues under the justification of personnel matters of non-elected personnel. Janet Stewart seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. After 10 minutes the meeting continued in open session with no action taken.

Jeff Baier, Paramedic/Firefighter joined the meeting. Kevin Shapland made the motion to recess into executive session for 30 minutes with Jeff Baier to discuss a director position under the justification of matters relating to employer-employee negotiations. Mark McGaughey seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. After 20 minutes the County Clerk was asked to join the executive session. After 30 minutes the meeting continued in open session. Mark McGaughey made the motion to hire Jeff Baier as the new combined position of Emergency Medical Service Director/Emergency Management Coordinator and approve the agreed wage for this new position to start officially on January 24, 2022, and for the salary to come from the Emergency Management fund. Janet Stewart seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Mark McGaughey made the motion to appoint Jeff Baier to the Southwest Kansas Homeland Security Committee replacing retiring Emergency Management Coordinator, Don Button. Kevin Shapland seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Commissioner McGaughey called the EMS Director to join the commissioner meeting. Kevin Shapland made the motion to recess into executive session for 10 minutes with Paul Fort to discuss employee changes under the justification of matters relating to employer-employee negotiations. Mark McGaughey seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. After 10 minutes the meeting continued in open session. Commissioner McGaughey announced they will honor Mr. Fort's request to step down as EMS Director effective January 24, 2022. He will

continue as a fulltime paramedic for the EMS. Kevin Shapland made the motion to approve the agreed upon wage for Mr. Fort. Janet Stewart seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Kevin Shapland made the motion to approve the pay plan wage increases for two Deputy Treasurer's as presented by the County Treasurer. Janet Stewart seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.


Kevin Shapland made the motion to approve the Kansas Association of Counties 2022 dues of \$2,591.99. Janet Stewart seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Kevin Shapland made the motion to approve minutes for the December 21, 2021, meeting along with claims against the various funds of the County: payroll total \$154,401.80 dated December 29, 2021, and voucher numbers ending 165956 totaling \$715,916.68. Janet Stewart seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

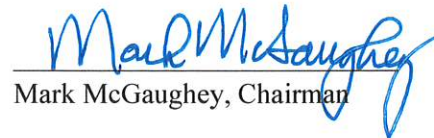
Kevin Shapland made the motion to adopt Resolution 22-01, a Resolution authorizing participation in the Rural Opportunity Zone Student Loan Repayment Program with a commitment of \$6,000.00 in 2022 from Grant County. Janet Stewart seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Kevin Shapland made the motion to recess into executive session for 15 minutes with the County Clerk to discuss an employee wage under the justification of matters relating to employer-employee negotiations. Mark McGaughey seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. After 15 minutes the meeting continued in open session. Mark McGaughey made the motion to approve the new hire wage for a Senior Center fulltime handyman/daily bus driver as recommended by the Senior Center Director. Janet Stewart seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Commissioners adjourned at 11:30 a.m., to meet again in regular session at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, January 18, 2022.


Sheila Brown, County Clerk




Mark McGaughey, Chairman