

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 Pastor Andy McMillen provided prayer.

Ulysses News Reporter, Kellie Euliss was in attendance.

Denise James, Health Department Administrator, requested permission to close the Health Department the week starting March 27th to allow everyone to attend the Governor's Public Health Conference in Manhattan, Kansas. John Martin motioned allowing all Health Department staff to attend the Governor's Public Health Conference and close the Health Department facility for a week. Mark McGaughey seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

Terri Trotman, County Treasurer, shared a letter from Klenda & Austerman LLC, relaying their firm handles real estate tax foreclosures. They have worked in Haskell County and Sedgwick County for numerous years. After reviewing the service, it was the commissioner's consensus to use this firm in the upcoming tax year and requested the County Treasurer seek a contract. Next, Ms. Trotman requested permission to add Kara Wilkie to the signature cards at Grant County Bank. It was the Commissioner consensus to add Clerk's Deputy to the banking signature cards.

Commissioners reviewed a name submitted by the Library Board of Trustees for the Board. Mark McGaughey motioned to appoint Debra Fort to a four-year term on the Library Board of Trustees starting May 1, 2023, replacing the completed term of Shirley Wilson. John Martin seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

The updated Lease Agreement with the Ulysses Gun Club was reviewed. John Martin motioned to renew the Ulysses Gun Club Lease for a period of one year starting April 1, 2023. Mark McGaughey seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

Commissioner Long asked that the Silver Haired Legislature request for funding be looked at again. John Martin motioned to support the Silver Haired Legislature and fund up to \$150.00 per Grant County member. Mark McGaughey seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

Shaun Minks, Public Works Supervisor, presented bids from Wilkens and Warren Equipment, Inc. and requested permission to purchase two trailers with live bottom to be used at the Transfer Station. Dustin Walker, Sales Manager for Murphy Tractor and Equipment attended this portion of the meeting. Discussion was held on shipping, tarps, and weight of trailers. Commissioner Long requested the Public Workers Supervisor leave the meeting and call Warren Equipment and request a bid for one trailer with actual shipping charge and when the trailer could be delivered and returned with a solid bid/estimate. Next, Mr. Minks presented bids for a semi-truck from Kenworth/delivery 18 months, Freightliner/delivery 24 months, International/delivery July 2024. Mack Manufacturing declined to bid due to

problems getting chips. After discussion, commissioners tabled bids until they had time to review each bid individually. Thirdly, Mr. Walker relayed it was his understanding motor grader bids were to be submitted at this meeting. After discussion on sealed bids, and use of Sourcewell Cooperative Purchasing Program, commissioners directed the Murphy Salesman to work with the Public Works Supervisor to ensure everyone was bidding apples to apples. The Public Works Supervisor was instructed to have vendors turn sealed bids into the County Clerk for an opening date of April 4, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. or present themselves at bid opening designated time. Later in the day a bid was submitted from Warren Equipment, as instructed. Mark McGaughey motioned to purchase one moving floor trailer from Warren Equipment at a cost not to exceed \$103,500.00 including freight and a 120-to-150-day delivery; to allow requested 25% deposit; and for this expense to be paid from Road Machinery Fund. John Martin seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously. It was the commissioner consensus to allow the old trailer to be placed on Purple Wave Online Auction Service for disposal.

A Road Crossing permit was presented, which was reviewed and approved.

Rachael Thooft, County Appointee for the Economic Development Board, met with commissioners and asked how they would like to get updates. Commissioners relayed they would like her to come to meetings and report when she felt it was something the County would benefit from knowing. She relayed at the last meeting they announced the name will be changing from Grant County Economic Development to Grant Economic Development so they will not appear to be directly underneath the County. Miss Thooft stated with the revised bylaws they are looking for new membership, corporate and private. Some of the memberships will include a spot on the board and some memberships will not, the structure is still being reviewed. The Board is finishing the housing study and working on finding grants.

John Martin motioned to approve the Civic Center Managers request to hire three seasonal staff members for the summer. Mark McGaughey seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

The Opioid Settlement funds were discussed, Commissioner McGaughey relayed meeting with Unified School District 214 School Nurse and they could use the funds as designated in the settlement. Mark McGaughey motioned to allow \$1,600.00 to the EMS Director for the purchase of opioid education cards from the Opioid Settlement funds. John Martin seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously. Mark McGaughey motioned to approve appropriating the remaining \$14,542.91 in the Opioid Settlement funds to USD 214 to use for opioid programs. John Martin seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

Commissioner McGaughey and Commissioner Martin shared information from a meeting in Scott City. The meeting was held to organize cities and counties and apply for federal grants as a region for better chances on funding. Discussed were multicounty projects such as highways, roads, energy, and broadband.

Commissioner Long gave updates; on House Bill 2421, a bill to allow Grant County voters to decide on a sales tax dedicated to building a jail/administration facility. It passed the

House unanimously and has been passed over to the Senate. Next, Commissioner Long relayed he met with Shawn Harding, HMN Architect for the jail project, they toured possible sites for updating the present jail or building new. Lastly Commissioner Long reported on House Bill 2002 concerning Taxing Entities Revenue Neutral Rate mailings. Discussion was held on Caryn Tyson's opposition to the State continuing to pay for the mailings.

Discussion was held on the upcoming budget cycle and the need for 5-year and long-range plans. The County Clerk was directed to notify all department heads the plans are part of the budget process and need to be submitted with budgets.

Mark McGaughey motioned to approve minutes for the March 7, 2023, meeting along with claims against various funds of the County, adding vouchers for Warren for \$25,000.00 and to USD 214 for \$14,542.91, payroll total \$144,847.28 dated March 8, 2023, and voucher numbers ending 169319 totaling \$326,216.00. John Martin seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.


Commissioners reviewed proposed wages at the Road, Transfer Station, Noxious Weed Departments. Marty Long motioned to recess into executive session for 20 minutes to discuss individual employee wages under the justification of matters of non-elected personnel. The County Clerk was asked to join the executive. John Martin seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously. After 20 minutes the meeting continued in open session. Marty Long motioned to accept the discussed wages for Road, Transfer Station, and Noxious Weed Departments and for the new wages to take effect at start of the next pay period. John Martin seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

Commissioner Long relayed a citizen reported multiple people living in the old church on Road 10. The County Clerk was directed to contact Sheriff Biddle and determine whether this statement was correct. Next, Commissioner Long and Commissioner McGaughey relayed citizens were reporting property on Road N is being used as a tire dump and possibly being charged a fee to dump. The County Clerk was directed to contact the Kansas Department of Health and Environment to see if they have proper permits for a dumping site.

Commissioner McGaughey left the meeting.

Marty Long motioned to recess into executive session for 30 minutes to hold discussion relating to the acquisition of real property. John Martin seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously. Commissioners came out of executive session after 30 minutes with no action taken.

Commissioners adjourned at 3:15 p.m. to meet again in regular session on Tuesday, April 4, 2023, at 9:00 a.m.


Sheila Brown, County Clerk




Marty Long, Chairman