

The Board of County Commissioners met in regular session at 9:00 a.m. with Commissioner Long, Commissioner McGaughey and County Clerk present. Commissioner Martin was absent due to a personal conflict. Commissioner Long led the Pledge of Allegiance and Commissioner McGaughey provided prayer.

The monthly department head meeting was held with the following in attendance: Terri Trotman, County Treasurer; Ludivina Gonzales, Senior Center Director; Dana McDaniel, Register of Deeds; Shaun Minks, Public Works Supervisor; Jeff Baier, EMS Director/EM Coordinator; Denise James, Health Department Administrator; and James Biddle, Sheriff.

Ulysses News Reporter, Sarah Loewen was in attendance.

Mark McGaughey motioned to approve minutes for the May 16, 2023, meeting along with claims against various funds of the County, payroll totals \$292,545.77 dated May 17 and May 31, 2023, and voucher numbers ending 169823 totaling \$792,004.94. Marty Long seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

Shaun Minks, Public Works Supervisor, presented the 2024 Road Department budget for review \$2,761,862.00, a 3.19% increase from 2023 budget. Next, the Supervisor presented the 2024 Noxious Weed budget for review \$243,884.00, a 7.62% increase from 2023 budget. Thirdly, reported a Volvo Loader broke down and presented a bid for a used part and 2 bids with new part. Shaun relayed the Shop Foreman requested a new part because of the warranty. Marty Long motioned to accept the bid from Van Keppel at a cost not to exceed \$3,952.71, and for this expense to come from the Road Machinery fund. Mark McGaughey seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously. Lastly, the Supervisor reported all mail, including utility bills are arriving late, and the Road Department is missing due dates. Commissioner Long recommended meeting with the Postmaster and let them know about the problem.

Grant County Conservation District, Julia Traster-Rowe, Conservation District Manager, and Board Members, Leonard Wilson, Gary Boldt, Javen Keaton; and Carmen Rhodes, Finney County Conservation District Manager met with commissioners. The group presented the 2024 appropriation request of \$22,500.00, which is same as previous year. The Conservation District continues to sell grass seed for additional revenue.

The County Clerk presented bids for a new office printer from Southern Office and Nex-Tech and explained the differences in the quality of printers. Mark McGaughey motioned to approve the purchase of a M5255 commercial printer from Southern Office Supply at a cost not to exceed \$2,573.00, and for this expense to come from the Special Equipment fund. Marty Long seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

Lucy Watie, Community Health Worker for Immunize Kansas Coalition, introduced herself and relayed she was hired by this statewide agency to coordinate between Grant, Haskell, Kearny, and Hamilton Counties. The mission of Immunize Kansas Coalition is to protect all Kansans from vaccine preventable disease. Ms. Watie feels the Hispanic community needs education to expel the misinformation and distrust of immunizations. She has formed a group of Spanish speaking helpers to assist her in this mission. Denise James, Health Department Administrator joined this portion of the meeting. Commissioners applauded Ms. Watie's efforts and thanked her for getting involved in the community.

Denise James, Health Department Administrator, requested an executive session. Marty Long motioned to recess into executive session for 10 minutes with the Health Department Administrator to discuss an employee issue under the justification of personnel matters of non-elected personnel. Mark McGaughey seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously. After 10 minutes the meeting continued in open session with no action taken. Next, the Administrator requested permission to hire two workers for the summer to scan documents and help clean trash up at 202 W. Kansas. It was consensus of commissioners to allow the hires if there is room in the Health Department budget. Thirdly, commissioners requested additional information on vouchers in the County bills, tornado magnets, Visa Gift Cards, and T-shirts for employees. After discussion the Administrator was asked to wait on the Visa Gift Cards until more information could be gathered. Lastly, Ms. James asked permission to put the x-ray machine out to bid. It was the consensus of commissioners to allow the x-ray machine to be let out to bid or put on a web medical equipment auction site and to allow the used x-ray film to be sold for recycling.

Commissioners requested Jeff Baier, EMS Director/EM Coordinator, join the meeting to discuss personnel. Marty Long motioned to recess into executive session for 15 minutes with the EMS Director to discuss employee issues under the justification of personnel matters of non-elected personnel. Mark McGaughey seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously. After 15 minutes the meeting continued in open session with no action taken.

Mark McGaughey motioned to approve the hire and wages recommendation for two seasonal employees at the Road Department. Marty Long seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously. Next, Mark McGaughey motioned to approve the recommendation for a wage increase and position move from truck driver to Operator II. Marty Long seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

Martin Long motioned to approve the 2024 Brown-DuPree Oil Company Fuel Purchase Agreement as presented, \$2.83 for E-10 gasoline, \$3.79 for #2 clear premium diesel, \$3.19 for 50/50 winter clear. Mark McGaughey seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

Discussion was held on the person encroaching on airport property along a west border. Commissioners held a conference call with Sheriff Biddle concerning the issue. The Sheriff will notify the landowner of the adjacent property and make sure the fence and posts are removed. Next, Sheriff Biddle requested permission to dispose of three vehicles not being used by the Law Enforcement, a 2010 Expedition, 2014 Expedition, and a 2015 Expedition. It was the consensus of commissioners to allow disposal of the vehicles on Purple Wave Online Auction.

Mark McGaughey motioned to adjourn at 12:40 p.m. Marty Long seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously. Commissioners will meet in regular session on Tuesday, June 20, 2023, at 9:00 a.m.

*Sheila Brown*

Sheila Brown, County Clerk



*Marty Long*

Marty Long, Chairman