

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 Jon Becker provided prayer.

Julie Yarmer, Freedom Claims Management Inc. (FCMI) Agent, reviewed the first six months using FCMI and Blue Cross and Blue Sheild of Kansas (BCBS). Ms. Yarmer reported a premium savings of \$137,340.74 to date. Commissioner Martin asked if prescription insurance could be pulled from BCBS and given to Tyson Mullen's pharmacy insurance. The agent explained the option will be presented with the 2024 contract presentation of fully insured and self-funded.

Terri Trotman, County Treasurer, presented a Resolution and Engagement Letter for commissioner review. John Martin motioned to adopt Resolution 23-02, a Resolution authorizing the foreclosure of real estate tax liens and the sale of unredeemed real estate in Grant County. Mark McGaughey seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Commissioners reviewed the Engagement Letter stating Grant County would retain the services of Lenda Austerman LLC for legal services for Ad Valorem Property Tax Judicial Foreclosure, which was approved by consensus.

Tim Nemechek and Bravane Phelps, Pioneer Communications representatives, met with commissioners to discuss phone systems for the Senior Center and new Health Department, and internet at the Transfer Station dumping building. Mr. Nemechek announced Pioneer Communications has partnered with another distributor and presented quotes for equipment and materials for phone systems. Mark McGaughey motioned to approve Pioneer Communications to install a net gear gig switch, wiring and phones at the new Health Department building at a cost of not to exceed \$3,643.00, and for this expense to come from the Health Department fund. John Martin seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously. Mark McGaughey motioned to approve Pioneer Communications to install a control unit with license and warranty at the Senior Center building at a cost not to exceed \$3,438.00, and for this expense to come from the Special Equipment fund. John Martin seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously. Next, discussion was held on different ways to wire a camera system in the dumping building at the Transfer Station. It was decided to install a camera system and hard wire the cameras from the recorder. Pioneer Communications agreed to install a circuit at a cost of \$30.00, which was approved by consensus.

John Martin motioned to recess into executive session for 10 minutes with the Senior Center Director under the justification of personnel matters of non-elected personnel. Mark McGaughey seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously. After 10 minutes the meeting continued in open session with no action taken.

Shaun Minks, Public Works Supervisor, and Gabriel Flores, Traffic Controller, requested permission to purchase a Graphtec 42" Cutting Plotter to make road signs. Later in the meeting Mark McGaughey motioned to purchase the machine to make road signs at a cost not to exceed \$8,347.00, and for this expense to come from the ARPA fund. John Martin seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously. Next, discussion was held on Road 11

concerning asphalt near the railroad tracks. Commissioner Long directed the Public Works Supervisor to return to commissioners, now or in the future, before working on the two miles of asphalt east of the tracks. Thirdly, discussion was held on the cost of dumping tires. Landowners have been relaying tires are being dumped in their fields. The Supervisor clarified if a farmer calls the Road Department about someone dumping tires or trash on their property, they pick it up, without charge, and take it to the Transfer Station.

Robert DeBaun, District Manager with Waste Connection, introduced himself and requested permission to dump at the Transfer Station. Shaun Minks, Public Works Supervisor, stayed for this portion of the meeting. Mr. DeBaun disclosed Collectia was not being allowed to dump roll off trucks since the overhead door was damaged and would like to apologize for any misunderstanding that occurred during that time. After discussion, it was the consensus of commissioners to allow Collectia to dump roll off trucks.

Commissioners reviewed a bid for an air conditioning unit at the Library building. After discussion a conference call was held with Holly Mathes, Library Director. Commissioners directed Ms. Mathes to seek one more bid for consideration per policy.

Mark McGaughey motioned to amend the July 5, 2023, motion of \$4,792.98 to purchase a refrigerator and ice machine at the Senior Center, to include an additional cost of \$70.59 for liftgate and shipping, new total \$4,863.57. John Martin seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

Commissioners reviewed a recommendation for the Fair Board. Mark McGaughey motioned to appoint Elizabeth Rogers to the Fair Board replacing the expiring term of Josh Eddie; and to reappoint Jennifer Hegwood, Jessica Lattimore, Steve Rice, Kevin Hecht, Kelly Wilson, and Orlando Maldonado for a term of one year. John Martin seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

Commissioners reviewed the request to have a luncheon meeting with Twilla Lee, CEO of Centura on July 25, 2023, at 11:30 a.m. at Bob Wilson Memorial Grant County Hospital Conference Room. It was the consensus of commissioners to have a special luncheon meeting with Centura.

Commissioners held a conference call with Shawn Harding, HMN Architect, to discuss companies interested in being construction manager for the jail project. A special meeting was set for July 19, 2023, at 2:00 p.m. in the Commissioner Room of the Courthouse.

Denise James, Health Department Administrator, met with commissioners. Commissioners requested details of money received from the University of Kansas Medical Center Research Institute on April 12, 2023, for \$6,095.00 and June 5, 2023, for \$12,740.00. The Administrator relayed she would be returning most of the money after meeting with commissioners July 5, 2023, and learning the LHEAT committee could not use funds like they wanted due to limitations in government procedures. After further discussion the Administrator admitted she intended to give the money to Impact Ulysses and was not sending back to KUMC. Ms. James stated she had spoken with Christina Pacheco at KUMC and she did not care who administered the grant dollars. Commissioner Long directed the Administrator to

account for all dollars spent and relay what was left so it can be transferred. Later in the meeting Ms. James returned a voucher for transfer of funds. Marty Long motioned to transfer grant funds received from KUMC totaling \$12,740.00 to Impact Ulysses. Mark McGaughey seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

Mark McGaughey motioned to approve minutes for the July 5, 2023, meeting along with claims against various funds of the County, payroll totals \$149,989.04 dated July 12, 2023, and voucher numbers ending 170153 totaling \$169,562.08. John Martin seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

The clerk reported on pre-employment screening as requested. Dynatest could screen for physical limitations per job description or by viewing activity of another in the same job at a cost of \$150.00 per test. It was the consensus of commissioners to have all new hires in positions that perform physical/manual work tested at Dynatest.

Commissioners recessed at 12:15 p.m.

Commissioners reconvened at 1:00 p.m. to finalize budgets, appropriation requests and determine if a Revenue Neutral Rate Hearing is necessary.

Rod Hay, CPA with Hay, Rice, and Associates joined the meeting.

Commissioners reviewed department budget requests along with five-year plans. The following decisions were made – increase property insurance in all budgets needed to allow for the notified insurance increase; reduce capital outlay in the Sheriff and Senior Center budgets and move to Special Equipment budget; increase Road Department budget for Road Materials; and decrease wages in the Senior Center budget.

Next, appropriation requests from various entities were reviewed. The following decisions were made – allow the Chamber of Commerce, Western Kansas Child Advocacy Center, Cimarron Basin Community Corrections Authority, Compass Behavioral, SDSI, RCDC, Ulysses Stampede Rodeo, Fair, requested appropriations; reduce Extension Council by \$10,000.00, reduce Economic Development by \$30,000.00; and reduce Historical by \$500.00; move capital outlay in the Ulysses Stampede Rodeo appropriation to Special Equipment; and keep Library appropriation at prior year.

When the budget process was complete the estimated mill levy will reduce .050 mills from the current budget and the ad valorem tax requested will be \$10,606,372.00. the estimated tax rate will not exceed the revenue neutral rate of 61.367 mills.

Mark McGaughey motioned to adjourn at 6:15 p.m. Martin Long seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously. Commissioners will meet in special session on Wednesday, July 19, 2023, at 2:00 p.m.


Sheila Brown, County Clerk




Marty Long, Chairman