

The Board of County Commissioners met in regular session at 9:00 a.m. with all members and County Clerk present. Ulysses News Reporter, Tammie Hensley was in attendance. Commissioner McGaughey led the Pledge of Allegiance and Commissioner Stewart provided prayer.

The monthly department head meeting was held with the following in attendance: Terri Trotman, County Treasurer; Jeff Baier, EMS Director/EM Coordinator; James Biddle, Sheriff; Dana McDaniel, Register of Deeds; John Crosby, Fire Chief; Randy McCauley, Public Works Supervisor; and Denise James, Health Department Administrator.

Randy McCauley, Public Works Supervisor, relayed a truck driver has been hired and submitted a pay sheet for approval. Next, the Supervisor presented an application from the Ulysses Feed Yard for the State of Kansas requesting permission to put a sign up on County right-of-way. It was consensus to allow a sign on County right-of-way.

Steve Rice, Airport Manager, gave an update on the meeting between himself and the FAA concerning moving FAA's radio equipment from the old Airport Office/old Fire Station. FAA will fully fund the project and a placement for the 10X20 foot prefabricated building has been chosen to be placed by the end of 2022. After the equipment is relocated the building will be torn down to comply with FAA runway protection zone requirements.

Grant County Conservation District Julia Traster-Rowe, Conservation District Manager and Board Members, Leonard Wilson, and Gary Bohl, presented the 2023 appropriation request of \$30,000.00, which is \$15,000.00 more than given previous year. Carmen Rhodes, Finney County Conservation District Manager joined the group to support conservation. The group shared future erosion prevention and water conservation projects and cost share programs the Conservation District would be hosting.

Margaret Obholz, IMPACT Ulysses, requested a formal response from commissioners on helping with the outdoor fitness court project. Commissioner Shapland said the County would not be committing taxpayer money to fund the project. Ms. Obholz asked if the commissioners would consider paying for the cement, approximately \$15,000.00 with ARPA funding. Commissioner Stewart relayed the County is looking at priorities and will work hard to fund core services of the County at this time.

Sarah Loewen, Ulysses News Editor, and Janae Arriola, Sales Representative, encouraged commissioners to participate in the next edition of Experience Grant County Visitors Guide. Kevin Shapland motioned to approve a full-page ad in the FYI Guide at a cost of \$698.00, and for this expense to be paid from the Courthouse General fund. Janet Stewart seconded motion, and it carried unanimously.

Kevin Shapland motioned to approve the Senior Center Director recommendation for wage increases to all Senior Center employees except for a change to the Maintenance/Handyman employee, the wage must stay within the pay plan schedule, and the Director raise request is

denied. The Senior Center Director will need to schedule a time to meet with commissioners. Janet Stewart seconded motion, and it carried unanimously. Next, Kevin Shapland motioned to approve the recommendation of the Civic Center Manager for a new hire wage, and the recommendation of the Public Works Supervisor for a new hire wage at the Transfer Station. Janet Stewart seconded motion, and it carried unanimously.

Commissioners reviewed a letter from Western Kansas Child Advocacy Center requesting \$50,000.00 additional funding from ARPA money. It was the consensus to table the request.

Kevin Shapland motioned to approve minutes for June 21, 2022, meeting along with claims against various funds of the County, payroll total \$140,027.74 dated June 29, 2022, and voucher numbers ending 167321 totaling \$218,818.54. Janet Stewart seconded motion, and it carried unanimously.

Commissioners adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

Commissioner 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 – approve budgets as submitted with the following adjustments - reduce capital outlay in the County Treasurer and Sheriff budgets and move to Special Equipment budget; merge Emergency Management budget into the Ambulance budget; an adjust wages in the Health Department budget.

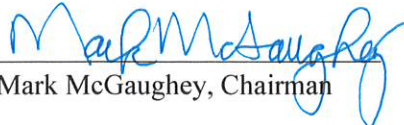
Next, appropriation requests from various entities were reviewed. The following decisions were made - allow the Chamber of Commerce, Western Kansas Child Advocacy Center, Compass Behavioral, Economic Development, Fair, Library and Library Benefits requested appropriations; add \$4,000.00 to requested appropriation for Historic Adobe Museum for building and liability insurance; reduce Extension Council request by \$10,130.00, reduce Conservation District request \$7,500.00, reduce capital outlay in the Ulysses Stampede Rodeo appropriation and move to Special Equipment budget; reduce Southwest Developmental Services request \$1,927.00 and Russell Child Development Center Compass Behavioral request \$1,000.00.

When the budget process was complete the estimated mill levy will reduce 5.420 mills from the current budget and the ad valorem tax requested will be \$10,695,242.00. The estimated tax rate will exceed the revenue neutral rate 11.395 mills and a public hearing will be scheduled.

Commissioners adjourned at 2:50 p.m., to meet again in regular session at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, July 18, 2022.


Sheila Brown, County Clerk




Mark McGaughey, Chairman