

Regular Session

August 20th, 2024 at 8:30 A.M.

Minutes

The Board of Woodson County Commissioners convened for its regular session on August 20th, 2024 promptly at 8:30a.m. with Vice-Chairman Kevin Stuber, Member Jerry Sedlacek, County Counselor Bret Heim, and County Clerk Amanda DeWitt.

Jerry Sedlacek moved to approve the agenda, Kevin Stuber 2nd, motion passed.

Jerry Sedlacek moved to approve the minutes as amended, Kevin Stuber 2nd, motion passed.

County Counselor Bret Heim stated that the unemployment hearing did not go well and believes it to be because of the changes with personnel and that we need termination letters to be clearer in the future because there was conflicting information provided. Kevin Stuber said that all department heads need to be sure to document everything with dates and times as soon as possible after events occur. Jerry Sedlacek stated that there were multiple things that the gentleman said and did that caused him to get fired but not all of those reasons were mentioned in the hearing.

Jerry Sedlacek moved to recess into executive session with the commissioners, county counselor, and county clerk for attorney client privilege for 11 minutes to reconvene at 8:45a.m. Kevin Stuber 2nd, motion passed.

Undersheriff Jared Helkenberg had nothing new to report but said that Jeff is doing better but won't be back full time right now. Otherwise, things are going well in the department. Jerry Sedlacek asked why Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks was involved in gathering evidence for gunshots that were taken in town recently. Jared Helkenberg said that the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks has dogs that they use to sniff out bullets and that is why they were used to help with the investigation.

Kevin Stuber moved to recess into executive session for attorney client privilege with the undersheriff, county clerk, commissioners, and county counselor for 7-minutes until 8:55a.m. Jerry Sedlacek 2nd, motion passed.

Michelle Zimmerman presented a request from Nick Barney, rural fire chief for ARPA fund in the amount of \$15,000 for water rescue equipment. Michelle Zimmerman stated that she has not received any paperwork or quotes yet but wanted to know if the commissioners want more documentation. The commissioners would like an itemized list with costs before the money is granted and to also verify the remaining ARPA funds available.

Michelle Zimmerman brought the idle investment report for the 2nd quarter. Kevin Stuber motioned to approve the idle investment report from April 1 to June 30 from the treasurer. Jerry Sedlacek 2nd, motion passed.

Michelle Zimmerman let the commissioners know that the bank would like her to meet with someone about transferring the county account to an ICS Cedars account which would split the current single account into multiple accounts across multiple banks. Michelle Zimmerman feels like this could result in a security issue but the bank claims it would be better for the community because it would open up the funds available in the bank due to not needing to secure the county.

Michelle Zimmerman presented the budget report requested for payroll from the bank for 2025. Jerry Sedlacek moved to approve the 2025 payroll budget report for the bank. Kevin Stuber 2nd, motion passed.

Jerry Sedlacek has requested updated budget reports when possible. Michelle Zimmerman let him know that this typically comes from the clerk's office but due to short staff daily reports have not been completed. With the hiring and training of the new clerk's office staff reports should be able to be provided more regularly.

Gary Ward provided his special machinery fund as of June 30th. He has calculated what has been spent so far. The only thing that has not come out is when rural fire department bills for the water tank.

Gary Ward plans to have \$400,000 to \$500,000 to carry over into next year from his rock budget so long as there are no major storms requiring a large amount of rock to repair the roads.

Gary Ward brought in paperwork that showed the used excavator cost more than a brand new one. The paperwork provided was for CAT. CAT did not provide a trade in quote due to damage to the cab for the one that would be used for trade. John Deere offered a trade in value of \$35,000. The payments on the John Deere excavator are a little over \$43,000. Jerry Sedlacek asked why we couldn't wait until the spring and pay for the excavator in full rather than on payments. Gary Ward would prefer to not spend that much money all at once just in case the funds are needed for something else later in the year. Jerry Sedlacek asked if they could wait until spring anyway due to the amount of new equipment already purchased but Gary Ward is concerned the cost of the item will increase. The decision to purchase was tabled until next week and the quotes from both CAT and John Deere are good for 30 days.

Jared Heckman is the new sales representative with Foley Equipment who supplies CAT equipment in the area. He came to introduce himself and discuss the excavator he quoted Gary Ward. When asked why the county should purchase his product, he stated that the resale value is better with CAT and also feels that their customer service is better due to having more technicians available. Jerry Sedlacek requested a quote with a trade in value on it for the old equipment.

Gary Ward asked Bret Heim, county counselor, what he can do to get the people to move the water gaps off of county bridges. Bret Heim will look into what the typical regulations are.

Gary Ward would also like to have something drawn up for when the county pays for CDL training that would require the employee to stay for 3 years or reimburse the county at a prorated rate.

Gary Ward is meeting with Tricia Goebel from Kansas Works at 4:00p.m. so she can meet with those wanting to attend the training.

Travis Clinesmith arrived as the representative for John Deere to discuss his proposal for the excavator. He stated that the county employees were able to test the equipment and liked it. The technology John Deere uses makes it easy to swap out equipment attachments due to the pump flow combination kit that comes standard on the equipment. This would save the county money long term. He also stated that they are increasing the number of technicians available in the area so their service department is growing. Travis Clinesmith also let the commissioners know that the machine he quoted has a 6-cylinder engine rather than the 4-cylinder engine model that was quoted for CAT.

Concerns were expressed via phone to the commissioners regarding the discussion of vacating the section of Oriole Rd. The concerns consisted of what happens if someone were to purchase the land and build a house there down the line the county might end up responsible for putting in a new road. It was suggested that rather than vacating that section it could be closed with an agreement with the land owner that the county has maintains the right to resume access.

Kevin Stuber made a motion to approve the wage sheet for Kathe Hamman to work with the appraiser's office to take pictures. Jerry Sedlacek 2nd, motion passed.

Michelle Zimmerman presented a few new changes to the handbook. The update includes not requiring paper timesheets to be submitted anymore in an attempt to use TimeClock more efficiently. It also contained travel reimbursement for mileage plus the meal reimbursement. Michelle Zimmerman also made the necessary changes to the policy manual to reflect the handbook changes. Bret Heim will review both the handbook and policy manual prior to final approval.


Kevin Stuber shared that H&H Roofing stated that there is a lot of damage to the roof of the community building. There is not enough ventilation so the shingles are overheating which is causing them to crack. They will need to be repaired before winter. Kevin Stuber requested a quote to install proper ventilation and replace the shingles. The rough estimate was that it would cost between \$20,000 and \$22,000. The budget has the ability to cover the repair. Kevin Stuber will request a hard bid from H&H roofing.

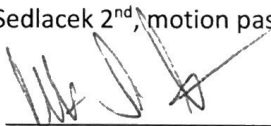
Jerry Sedlacek moved to donate \$100 to Friends for Life as a sponsorship for the walk with the money to be taken out of the general fund. Kevin Stuber 2nd, motion passed. The shirt that comes with the sponsorship will be ordered in a child size to be donated to the Sheriff's office.

Kevin Stuber moved to sign vouchers in the amount of \$82,112.40. Jerry Sedlacek 2nd, motion passed.

Jerry Sedlacek moved to sign the additional vouchers in the amount of \$2,000. Kevin Stuber 2nd, motion passed.

Kevin Stuber moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:06a.m. Jerry Sedlacek 2nd, motion passed.

Attest: 
Amanda DeWitt, County Clerk


Justin Clark, Chairman


Kevin Stuber, Vice-Chairman


Jerry Sedlacek, Member