

March 12th, 2024

The Woodson County Board of Commissioners convened for a regular business session on March 12th, 2024, with Chairman Justin Clark, Vice-Chairman Kevin Stuber, Member Jerry Sedlacek, County Attorney Zelda Schlotterbeck, and Certified County Clerk Tesla Bayles in attendance.

The meeting commenced with the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

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Sedlacek motioned to approve the agenda, which was seconded by Stuber and passed unanimously. Following suit, Sedlacek motioned to approve the minutes from the previous week, with Stuber seconding and Clark providing the unanimous vote.

Chairman Clark addressed the impact of KPERS after retirement on the employee benefit fund. Attorney Zelda Schlotterbeck then presented a discussion on the policy concerning open and concealed carry in the Courthouse. Although the board deliberated on eliminating open carry by employees, no decision was reached. Clark proposed seeking input from KCamp, the insurance company, on the matter.

Sheriff Jeff McCullough reported on the ongoing plumbing repairs in the jail and recent threats made towards the school, resulting in its closure. He also mentioned the appointment of a coroner by the state. Cavender was appointed on February 6th. Discussions ensued regarding school safety measures, including the possibility of a school resource officer and volunteer programs. McCullough advocated for raises for all department heads, citing precedence set for the Road and Bridge Director.

Solid Waste Supervisor Tracy Parks informed the board of the need to transport the backup trash truck to Joplin or Wichita for maintenance.

Sedlacek motioned to recess into executive session for non-elected personnel to protect employee confidentiality; to discuss employee job performance for 12 minutes with the Commissioners beginning at 9:03 to reconvene in the commission room at 9:15 a.m. Stuber seconded it; Clark making it unanimous. The board emphasized the importance of documenting employee evaluation thoroughly and specifically.

Stuber proposed a resolution regarding rental fees for roll off containers, which was seconded by Sedlacek and unanimously approved by Clark.

EMS Director Cari Cavender presented the weekly ambulance run log and discussed grant applications for water resources for firefighters and ambulance services. The need for an icemaker was also raised, pending further discussion.

Sedlacek motioned to recess into executive session for Attorney-Client privileges to discuss legal liability for 13 minutes with the Commissioners and County Attorney, starting at 9:42 a.m. and reconvening at 9:55 a.m. in the Commissioners Meeting Room. The motion was seconded by Stuber, with Clark making it unanimous.

Following the executive session, Stuber moved to table a proposed resolution, seconded by Clark and unanimously agreed upon by Sedlacek.

Emergency Management Supervisor Dimick provided clarification on his requested wage, leading to the approval of Timothy Dimick's part-time position as Emergency Management Supervisor, motioned by Clark, seconded by Stuber, and unanimously agreed upon by Sedlacek.

Noxious Weed Director Jarrod McVey updated the board on the installation of fiber optic in the courthouse and provided progress reports for Maintenance and Noxious Weed departments.

Todd Green presented an updated road progress report, addressing previously reported road issues. The board discussed standardizing pipe length for commercial properties and potential changes to cellphone

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policies in road and bridge and solid waste departments, which were tabled for further discussion. Sedlacek suggested hiring additional employees for Road and Bridge, and Green mentioned the sale of a grader with 14,000 miles. Sedlacek's attendance at a monthly Road and Bridge meeting was discussed, with clarification provided that his presence as a citizen does not reflect the County Board of Commissioners. Clark requested a letter in regards to what happens if the roads are graded after dust control has been put down between the different companies that want to do dust control for Road and Bridge. Ward brought up that dust control needs to be done at the beginning of May.

Stuber addressed that they received a Neighborhood Revitalization Program for Carolyn Starkey. Clark made a motion and Sedlacek seconded and was unanimously agreed.

Clark made motion for five-minute break, which was seconded by Stuber and unanimously by Sedlacek.

Sedlacek addressed the position of Jerry Mentzer, there was discussion about sharing an appraiser with surrounding counties if possible. Discussion for later date.

Michelle Zimmerman addressed the issue of courthouse doors not getting unlocked. Discussion was made that Mary Ann Howell had taken on another position, and it was not her responsibility to do. It was discussed that the first person in the courthouse should unlock the doors. Zimmerman said that the treasurer office would be in charge of that now, and she would make sure it was done.

Clark addressed the Kansas Broadband Acceleration Grant information that was from La Harpe Communications Company Inc. A letter of support issued for \$1000.00 and the money only moves forward if the grant is awarded. It is going into Neosho Falls and possibly in future on to Piqua discussion was made that it would benefit both areas. Clark made the motion, seconded by Stuber and unanimously by Sedlacek.

Stuber addressed the wage sheet for Gary Ward. Discussion was made on impact of the wage presented and the budgets that would be impacted including Employee Benefits. Stuber made the motion to sign wage sheet seconded by Sedlacek. Motion passed 2-0 Clark abstained.

Gary Ward brought up usage of County Equipment for personal use, discussion was made no decision was made.

Clark moved to sign vouchers in the amount of \$80, 565.59, seconded by Stuber made unanimously by Sedlacek motion passed.

Stuber addressed there was a chamber of commerce meeting tonight. Discussion was made that the tourism board got a request for a track meet for the school district for \$1000.00. It was also brought to the attention that the hotel has closed so there will be no more tourism funding from it.

Stuber moved to adjourn the meeting. Sedlacek seconded and motion was passed. The meeting ended at 12:09 p.m.

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Justin Clark, Chairman

Attest: _____
Tesla Bayles, Woodson Certified County Clerk

Kevin Stuber, Vice-Chairman

Jerry Sedlacek, Member