

Pawnee County Commissioners  
Minutes  
January 23, 2023

Present: Commissioners: Burdett, Hammeke, Rein

9:00am Meeting was called to order by Chairman Rein, with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Kurt Demel, Road and Bridge, Noxious Weed, Zoning department head met with Commissioners, along with Tanner Yost, Senior Project Engineer for Kirkham Michael joined the meeting via telephone to discuss Conditional Use Permit for Solar Farms. Tanner explains additional agreements he would recommend protecting the roads and the farmland.

Discussion took place regarding additional questions.

Kurt presented Zoning Board appointment for Commissioners approval.

**Motion by Hammeke, seconded by Burdett to accept the Pawnee County Joint planning and Zoning Commission as presented. Motion passes, 3-0.**

Kurt updated the Commissioners on the completion of OS 75 bridge. Kurt explained Road and Bridge will pay for the whole bridge project and will then be reimbursed by the State of Kansas.

Kurt presented quotes from KanEquip, Inc and John Deere on a new mower tractor. Kurt explained that he is moving some items around on his equipment list. Kurt stated he would be buying this mower tractor outright to add to his fleet. Commissioners stated they will decide on this purchase at next weeks meeting.

Kurt gave road and equipment updates.

Commissioner Hammeke updated Commissioner Rein on the meeting with Coroner Noordhoek and Dr. VanNorden.

10:00

Shae Veach, Vice President of Regional Operations, Melanie Urban, Pawnee Valley Hospital Administrator attended the meeting in person and Andy Beck, Finance Controller joined via telephone.

Andy began the meeting with the financial report for December 2022 reviewing the Dashboard of Key Ratios. Andy reviewed the Balance Sheet and Statement of Operations stating that revenues were over budget. Andy explained the Operating Expenses. The health claims being a little higher being the end of the year. Supplies costs were up mainly due to medications.

Melanie discussed getting new physicians contracted with the different insurance before they can see patient and the process it takes to get the approval. Discussion took place regarding 340B drug program.

Melanie gave updates on activities the hospital participated in December 2022. Melanie stated Elementary school asked them to sponsor the Donuts with Grownups. Melanie presented dates of future Hospital engagements. Melanie presented graphs for COVID-19 Positive Admissions as well as positive test and admissions for Influenza.

Melanie informed Commissioners of some sidewalk repairs and awning and sidewalk additions to the South side of the hospital to lead to the Healing Garden.

Melanie stated there is a meeting set on February 21, 2023, to begin the conversations of A Daycare project, to explore options of Childcare in the

Community. Melanie stated the City Manager, Mayor, Pawnee County Health Nurse, Superintendent from both schools, Pastor Ryan and Alex Filbert, Larned Chamber of Commerce/Economic Development Director

10:30

Tyson Steffen, Former Fair Board President, and Cory Johnson, Fair Board Member met with the Commissioners to discuss installing a key card system on two doors on the Haas Building. INAAlert indicated that the courthouse was also using INAAlert. Discussion took place if it would be possible to house the Fair Building system on the County Server. INAAlert assured the Fair Board the access would be separate. Commissioner unanimously agreed they would allow the Fair Board to use the server for their keyless entry.

11:30

Beau Rebel, General Manager of Golden Belt Telephone/GBT Communications, Addie Flax, Market Specialist, Brian Hammeke, GBT Board Member, Larned Tiller and Toiler were present. Commissioner Rein opened the meeting by giving the history and partnership between Pawnee County and Golden Belt Telephone. Beau was pleased to announce the grant award of \$6,782,694.00 from the State of Kansas through the Kansas Capital Project Funds Broadband Infrastructure Program. Beau stated the grant was awarded to GBT largely due to the co-investment by Pawnee County. Beau explained this project will provide the Eastern part of Rural Pawnee County, which will consist of 503 locations, with high-speed broadband.

Commissioner Rein also thanked Golden Belt Telephone for their commitment to Pawnee County.

12:00

Commissioners recessed for lunch

1:00

Commissioners reconvened to regular session.

Tina Keeler, Appraiser gave Ag Value update. Tina stated Dryland is dropping by an average of 15%, while irrigated is down an average of 8%. However, Tina stated decreases as high as 20% to 30% are not uncommon. Tina discussed the changes in grain elevators due to a ruling in Gray County. Tina discussed ATV-UTV-ROV Farm Exemption per K.S.A. 79-201j(a), discussion took place.

Tina presented proposed legislation for Appraiser's in 2023.

Tina discussed City of Larned permits.

Tina presented a Payroll Change Notice for an employee in the appraiser's office going from Step 2 to Step 3.

**Motion by Hammeke, seconded by Burdett to approve payroll change notice for appraiser employee from step 2 to step 3, for office assistant II effective 1/23/2023. Motion passes, 3-0.**

1:30

Undersheriff Larry Atteberry and Lieutenant Josh Huff, Pawnee County Sheriff's Office met with the Commissioners, due to Sheriff King assisting in Ford County, to discuss City Bonds. Undersheriff Atteberry presented a draft letter from Sheriff Scott King to Chief of Police, City Administrators and Pawnee County Commissioners to discuss housing fees for municipalities and other counties. Sheriff King also attached K.S.A. 19-1930 for review. Undersheriff Atteberry explained an issue has risen with the City of Larned wanting to collect the bond on the inmates they bring to the jail. Undersheriff Atteberry and Lieutenant Huff discussed the challenges this is creating for the jail staff.

Undersheriff Atteberry also presented the title of the Dodge Ram pickup.

Undersheriff Atteberry and Lieutenant Huff gave a jail/inmate update.

Clerk Rein presented payables, checks draft minutes for review and corrections. Discussion regarding VonFeldt Bauer and VonFeldt audit and non-attest engagement letters.

**Motion by Hammeke, to accept Audit Engagement letter from VonFeldt Bauer and VonFeldt for the 2023 Audit as presented. Motion passes, 2-0. Commissioner Burdett abstained from voting due to Conflict of Interest.,**

**Motion by Hammeke to accept the Audit letter from VonFeldt Bauer and VonFeldt on the 2022 Audit as presented. Motion passes, 2-0. Commissioner Burdett abstained from voting due to Conflict of Interest.**

Clerk Rein and Commissioners discussed the Tower Rent invoice for 800 radio service in Burdett.

Discussion took place regarding Senate Bill 7 regarding state income tax.

Commissioners discussed the burn pile in Garfield.

Clerk Rein presented rejection of appointment for Pleasant Grove Township Clerk.

**Motion by Hammke, seconded by Burdett to appoint Matt Stucker as Pleasant Grove Township Clerk for a 4-year term. Motion passes, 3-0.**

**Motion by Hammeke, seconded by Burdett to appoint David Schartz as Clerk of Grant Township for a 4-year term. Motion passes, 3-0.**

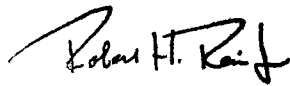
Discussion took place regarding the library appropriations. Clerk Rein explained the Revenue Neutral Rate has capped the library appropriation to \$43,000.00. Commissioners discussed the funding for the county libraries and due to the amount Burdett and Garfield receive they will reduce the difference from the Larned Library appropriation.

Commissioners would like a meeting scheduled with Jodaan Memorial Library Director or Library Board.

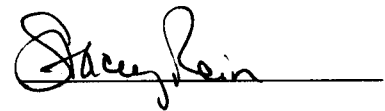
Clerk Rein informed the Commissioners of a special election for the City of Rozel, on February 28, 2023. Canvass date has been set for Monday, March 6, 2023.

3:15

Motion for Adjournment



For the Board:  
Chair, Board of Commissioners



Attest:  
County Clerk