

Pawnee County Commissioners
Minutes
January 25, 2021

Present: Commissioners: Rein, Lewis and Hammeke

Pledge of Allegiance.

9:06 Meeting was called to order.

Commissioners reviewed mail. Clerk Rein joined the commissioners and discussed 2021 appropriations. The Commissioners asked the Clerk to check on the League of Municipalities if the County are members and what services they offer. County Clerk delivered the updated 2021 private vehicle mileage rates from the Internal Revenue Service. The rate decreased to \$.56 per mile.

Motion by Rein, seconded by Lewis to approve the Internal Revenue Service mileage amount of \$.56 per mile beginning January 1, 2021.

Motion Carries 3-0.

Pawnee County Clerk Rein presented draft minutes from January 18, 2021 for review and corrections.

A bill was presented by Clerk Rein for services rendered to Aumentum Computer program by the previous Clerk for Tax Support in the amount of \$1600.00 in 2020.

Clerk Rein stated that she had spoke to Aaron with VonFeldt Bauer and VonFeldt on a levy issue, the Clerk explained that the Mill Levy for the Larned Recreation was set at 3.5 when the cap should be 3.0 mills. Clerk Rein stated that the Larned Rec and City of Larned were both aware of the levy error. The Clerk stated in talking to the program company regarding this error, they stated the cap was never entered into the system. The Commissioners asked the Clerk to contact Aaron at VonFeldt Bauer and VonFeldt to see if he would be available to meet with the Commissioners next Monday.

Clerk Rein asked the Commissioners if they would like to continue to allow employees to use Administrative Leave for quarantine and isolation due to COVID 19, since Federal Government did not extend this benefit. The Commissioners discussed they would like to continue this benefit to employees that are required to quarantine or isolate due to COVID 19. Commissioner Rein will talk with County Attorney McNett regarding a new resolution.

The Clerk presented two payroll change notice forms from the County Treasurers office.

Motion by Lewis, seconded by Rein to approve the payroll change notice step-raises for two employees' as written from the Treasurers office. Motion Carries 3-0.

10:00 County Clerk presented quarterly reports for Community Corrections. Gail Antenen attends the meeting via telephone. Director Antenen presented the quarterly report for Adult DOC. Director Antenen stated the first quarter grant payment was received in early January. Director Antenen stated she did purchase a new copier for \$3600.00, this amount would be split between Community Correction and Court Services. Director Antenen stated that travel expenses is down, due to not traveling because of COVID 19.

Motion by Rein, seconded by Lewis to approve the Adult DOC Quarterly Cash Reconciliation and Certification as presented. Motion Carries 3-0.

Director Antenen presented the quarterly report from Juvenile DOC. Director Antenen state that Juvenile DOC balance with the County.

Motion by Rein, seconded by Lewis to approve the Quarterly Cash Reconciliation and Certification as presented. Motion carries. 3-0

Director Antenen presented the quarterly report for the Reinvestment Program. Director Antenen stated that due to the amount of carryover from the previous fiscal year she did not receive her second quarter payment.

Motion by Lewis, seconded by Rein to approve the Quarterly Cash Reconciliation and Certification as presented. Motion carries. 3-0

10:25 **Motion by Lewis to enter into executive session for personnel for a period of 5 minutes, from 10:25am to 10:30am, seconded by Rein, Motion carried. 3-0**

10:30 Reconvened to regular session, no action taken.

11:00 Commissioner recessed meeting to attend LEPC meeting.

Commissioners enter LEPC meeting. In attendance in person was Commissioners: Rein, Hammeke, Lewis, County Attorney McNett, County Health Administrator Cheryl Hoberecht, joining via Zoom: Emergency Management Mark Wagner, Sheriff King, Chief Orth, City Manager Brad Elits, Department of Corrections Representative Wayne Gore, LSH Superintendent Lesia Dipman, PVCH Administrator Melanie Urban, Community Member Buddy Tabler, and Heart of Kansas Representative Heather Hicks and EMS Director Kara Lawrence.

Cheryl Hoberecht, Pawnee County Health Administrator updated the group with community COVID -19 statistics for the week: in the last 14 days 46 cases, last 7 days 14, 563 non LTC, LSH, LCMH, 16 active cases and 10 deaths. Cheryl stated the Pawnee County Health Department has received 100 doses of the COVID -19 vaccine, that they will start administering the COVID 19 vaccine to the elder starting on Tuesday, January 26, 2021.

Cheryl stated that she helped with the drive-thru clinic in Great Bend over the weekend. Cheryl stated if a large dose of the vaccine is received it will be discussed if a drive-thru clinic is a possibility.

Melanie Urban, PVCH Administrator stated that the hospital has not seen any additional doses of the vaccine. She stated that about 54% of the hospital and clinic staff has been vaccinated.

Commissioner Rein wanted to thank University of Kansas Health Systems Pawnee Valley Campus, Heart of Kansas and the Pawnee County Health Department for their collaboration.

Department of Corrections representative Wayne Gore stated that as of this week there was zero offender populations with the virus and zero staff members out for the last two weeks.

Wayne stated that the State of Kansas will be sending vaccines for the offender population and staff in February.

EMS Director, Kara Lawrence stated EMS states they have had approximately 12 runs higher than normal.

LSH Superintendent Lesia Dipman gave State Hospital statistics regarding patients. Lesia thanked UKHS PVCH and Heart of Kansas for getting 126 staff members vaccinated that were interest. Lesia stated that the State of Kansas sent the state hospital 100 doses for additional health care workers.

Melanie Urban stated that the University of Kansas Health Systems offered a Town Hall Meeting to provide education to staff that may be hesitant to get the vaccine.

Heart of Kansas Representative Heather Hicks stated that 86% of their staff has been vaccinated. Heather stated that Heart of Kansas has given 200 doses of the vaccine to health care workers and first responders. Heather stated that they have not received any additional doses the week and believes they will probably be delivering to the county Health Departments.

Commissioner Rein stated that we need to keep collaborating and possibly combine and merge the high-risk list that each entity to get our high risk and over 65 community members vaccinated.

The next meeting has been scheduled for February 8, 2021.

County Commissioners reconvened to the Commissioners meeting.

County Attorney McNett presented the updated resolution regarding Administrative Leave for COVID 19.

Motion by Rein, seconded by Lewis to approve as written Resolution 2021-R-003, Resolution extending Administrative Leave During the COVID 19 Coronavirus Health Emergency. Motion Carried. 3-0

12:00

Commissioners recessed for lunch

1:09

Commissioners reconvened to meeting

County Clerk presented election vouchers and checks from 2020 election, that were held due to budget insecurities with the previous County Clerk. Commissioners signed checks to be paid.

1:30

Julie Bugner-Smith, Pawnee Valley Foundation Director presented the commissioner with Foundation Board terms that were coming due. Julie stated that they had received some recommendations for replacements for those members. Julie stated she just wanted to let the Commissioners be aware of those that had been mentioned. Julie stated that next year will be the 10th year anniversary of the Foundation.

Julie informed the Commissioners of upcoming events for the year, such as the Gala which is currently planned for November 6, 2021 and the Annual Golf Tournament. Julie stated she is hoping these will be able to happen this year, people will be excited to be able to do things.

1:50

Motion by Lewis, seconded by Rein to move into executive session for a period of 5 minutes from 1:50pm to 1:55pm for Personnel to include County Clerk Rein. Motion carried. 3-0

1:55

Reconvened to regular session, no action taken.

2:00

Melanie Urban, University of Kansas Health System Pawnee Valley Campus Administrator and via telephone, George Harms, Chief Financial Officer as well as Andy Beck.

George reviewed the financials, balance sheets and current liabilities with the Commissioners. George spoke of the 1.3 million dollars that will need to be returned to Medicare for their prepayment to the health system to help with the COVID pandemic. George stated that those dollars had been set aside and is ready to be sent back.

George reviewed the Statement of Operations reports in detail, stating that the net income was \$24,000.00 over budget for this time. George reviewed the expense report in detail.

Melanie spoke to the commissioners of other operations within the hospital. Melanie stated that staff has been offered incentives with a pay increase to cover nursing shortages and working outside of their normal hours.

Melanie stated that the Maintenance supervisor has retired and has been replaced by a new employee. Stated that the Hospital and Clinic will be using a new patient program beginning in May 2021, this will allow all of those in the University of Kansas Network to see patient information as needed.

Melanie updated the Commissioners of new equipment that was purchased by the Foundation.

Melanie updated the Commissioners on Community Events the hospital endorsed and participated in.

Melanie spoke of the new programs that the staff is using as of the first of the year. Melanie stated that the Clinic has hired a new PRN APRN to help cover when there is only one provider in the clinic due to two providers being on maternity leave.

2:40 **Motion by Rein, seconded by Lewis to enter into executive session for Personnel for a period of 15 minutes from 2:40pm to 2:55 to include Sheriff King and County Clerk Rein. Motion carried. 3-0**

2:55 Reconvened to regular session, no action taken.

County Clerk updated the Commissioners on an issue she became aware of on the General Ledger for benefits. She stated that all benefits go into a clearing account, which had not been cleared out since August 2020. Clerk explained this is already off the books but that it still showed on the GL. Clerk Rein stated she talked with Pam, staff that was hired to help with the general ledger in 2020 and Aaron with VonFeldt Bauer and VonFeldt, who stated that clearing account could be zeroed out.

County Clerk Rein spoke to the commissioners about having staff earn Comp Time instead of being paid overtime. County Clerk stated that currently one department uses Comp time instead of paying out all the overtime. Commissioners stated if they allow one department, they feel they cannot deny another department to do the same. Commissioner stated they would like the County Clerk to check with Kansas Association of Counties on their recommendations on Comp. Time. Commissioner stated they would like to see the comp time used temporarily.

Meeting adjourned at 3:20pm

Philip Hammel

For the Board:

Chair, Board of Commissioners

Stacy Rein

Attest:

County Clerk