

Pawnee County Commissioners
Minutes
February 15, 2021

Present: Commissioners: Rein, Lewis and Hammeke, County Clerk Rein

Pledge of the Allegiance

9:01 Meeting was called to order.

County Clerk presented Commissioners with draft minutes for review and corrections, approved minutes for signature and payable voucher and checks as well as Payroll checks and vouchers. County Clerk also presented for the County Attorney the COVID Data worksheets.

Commissioner Rein stated he spoke with 4-State Supply company regarding it is Nitrile gloves. Rein stated he spoke to the Sheriff's department and EMS to see if they had a supply of these gloves, both agencies stated they had a few boxes. Rein told 4 State Supply company to go ahead and ship the 120 boxes of Nitril gloves. The gloves will be put in the PPE reserve to be used by agencies throughout the county.

Clerk Rein asked about the new employee manual, Clerk Rein stated she would like to start doing research if needed for the Human Resources section.

9:45 Kurt Demel, Road and Bridge department head presented Federal funds distribution/Federal Fund Exchange 2021. Federal Funds to be exchanged are \$70,762.24 with the exchange rate for 2021 being \$.90 states funds/\$1.00 Federal Funds, available funds after the exchange \$63,686.01.

Motion by Rein, seconded by Lewis to approve the current year Federal Funds Exchange for 2021 in the amount of \$63,686.01. Motion carried. 3-0

Kurt updated the Commissioner on the shop lights stated they have all been changed out to LED. Kurt updated the Commissioners on bridge OS 21, stating our total cost for this bridge is \$200,210.72. Kurt presented a Labor and Equipment cost rate sheet for the Commissioners review. Kurt stated this rate does include the labor. Kurt stated he would get contracts sent to the Townships. Kurt spoke to the Commissioner regarding the realignment of 100th avenue and R road. Kurt stated that he has spoken to the landowner and tenant regarding this construction. Updates were given by Kurt on the O road water drainage project. Kurt stated once the weather breaks and it warms up some they will begin working on Broadway regarding run off. Kurt stated the utilities are all moved and marked with stakes.

10:23 Tami Keenan, Treasurer presented quarterly reports ending January 31, 2021. Treasurer Keenan did state the Treasurers and County Clerk were aware of a discrepancy of \$1008.00 in the benefits fund and \$118.00 Juvenile Department of Corrections from 2020. Treasurer is working with the accounting agency to correct.

Motion by Lewis, seconded by Rein to approve the Treasurer's quarterly report ending January 31, 2021 with the exception to the Employee Benefits and Juvenile Department of Corrections previously known issue that is continued to be worked on by the County and Accounting firm to correct. Motion carried. 3-0

10:55 County Attorney McNett spoke to the Commissioners regarding a contract for a new software program for his office. County Attorney McNett gave history on

his program and why is getting a new software contract. County Attorney McNett stated the implementation of the program would cost him \$5500.00 which will come from Diversion funds and the monthly fee of approximately \$6800.00 would be out of his budget. County Attorney McNett stated this contract is for 3 years.

11:00

Commissions recessed to LEPC meeting.

Those present were: Commissioners, Cheryl Hoberecht, Pawnee County Health Administrator, Doug McNett, Pawnee County Attorney. Joining the meeting by Zoom was Brad Eilts, City of Larned City Manager, Melanie Urban, University of Kansas Health Systems Pawnee Valley Campus Administrator, Lesia Dipman, Larned State Hospital Superintendent, Kara Lawrence, EMS Director, Scott King, Pawnee County Sheriff, Charles Orth, City of Larned Chief, Lance Duft, City of Larned Sergeant, Vanessa Feldman, City of Larned Head Dispatcher, Julie Krampe, The Center for Counseling, Brian Stacey, Diversicare Administrator, Christina Frick, Business Owner. Kurt Demel, Pawnee County Road and Bridge Department Head, Antonio Hearn, City of Larned Officer.

Cheryl began the meeting by giving the updated COVID - 19 numbers: 2 Cases in the last 7 days, 17 Cases in the last 14 days, 3 Active cases. 1129 Cases including Larned State Hospital, Larned Correctional Mental Health Facility and Larned Long Term Care Facilities, Total community cases 591 and 13 deaths. Pawnee County is currently in Yellow.

Cheryl stated the reasons why numbers may be down, it may be due to mask wearing, social distancing, people not being tested.

Discussion took place regarding changing to the Matrix to increase the number by 5 persons per level. Those present gave their opinions regarding a matrix change. It was stated that originally the matrix designed for the school to use as a guideline. It was stated the USD 495 now has its own matrix it is currently using. Sheriff King ask if Pawnee Heights used this matrix. Commissioner Hammeke stated the USD496 does currently use the matrix made by Pawnee County for its school. County Attorney McNett remind everyone that if the matrix is changed that businesses can always be more restrictive if they feel necessary.

Brian Stacey, Diversicare Administrator stated that 96% of residents have received both COVID 19 vaccines. Mr. Stacey stated that Diversicare is allowing visits in the front lobby follow the CDC guidelines.

Melanie Urban, stated that they have a lower census on acute care. Zero COVID cases. Melanie stated through the crisis they did not turn any patients away and were able to admit patients except for critical patients that came through the Emergency Department those stayed in the Emergency Room until a critical hospital could be found, and patients could be transferred.

Cheryl Hoberecht asked everyone to please go out to University of Kansas Health System Pawnee Valley Campus and complete the Critical Access Survey. Cheryl stated it takes about 10 minutes to complete. Cheryl gave updates on COVID 19 vaccinations, Cheryl stated that Pawnee County Health Department received 360 doses, 30 second vaccines have been given with 100 doses of first round doses have been given this week. Cheryl stated that 200 doses have been given to Larned State Hospital, 300 doses to Larned Correctional Mental Health Facility, and 200 doses to Heart of Kansas.

Melanie Urban stated that Pawnee Valley Community Hospital has not received any additional doses of the vaccine.

Lesia Dipman, stated they have 3 active cases at the Larned State Hospital.

Brad Eilts, stated the City is dealing with electric energy rolling black outs due to lack of current wind energy, gas wells are freezing due to current weather conditions and natural gas currently has a shortage. Brad stated the City is currently creating its own energy by running the generators. It was asked if the community would be notified of any blackouts prior to them happening. Brad also stated City is having trouble with lines snapping just due to the extreme cold.

Discussion took place to set up a Warm Place for community residents to go if we should go without electricity for an extended period. Cheryl stated the Health Department had 30 cots; Sheriff King stated that they had several to donate. Kara stated EMS had several blankets that could be used if necessary. Kurt stated Road and Bridge Department has access to generators if needed to warm community building in the outer areas.

Lesia stated the Stated Hospital has switched its broiler to diesel to help conserve energy.

Discussion took place regarding have town meeting to discuss with the public EMS services. Commissioners are hoping to have in person meetings by April 2021. Vanessa with Larned Police Department stated she will run reports on EMS runs to the outer town within the county.

12:18

Commissioner reconvened to regular meeting.

Continued discussion took place regarding the Heating Shelter. Once confirmation of facility the Commissioner asked that it please be posted on Facebook.

12:29

Meeting adjourned.

Philip Hammeh

For the Board:

Stacey Rein

Attest: