

Pawnee County Commissioners
Minutes
March 1, 2021

Present: Commissioners: Lewis and Hammeke, County Clerk Rein

Absent: Commissioner Rein

Pledge of the Allegiance

9:10 Meeting was called to order.

County Clerk presented Commissioners with draft minutes for review and corrections, approved minutes for signature, payable vouchers with checks along with payroll vouchers, Clerks report.

**Motion by Lewis to place a County-wide burn ban in effect until further notice.
Motion carried. 2-0**

10:00 Sheriff King and Joel Davis Register of Deeds as well as County Attorney McNett and Clerk Rein joined the meeting regarding coverage of Emergency Management/Zoning in the absence of Department Head. Sheriff King stated he has updated the City regarding Emergency Management. Discussion took place regarding who would be covering what duties in the absence of staff.

11:00: Commissioners recessed to attend LEPC meeting.

Commissioner's and Cheryl Holberecht attended the meeting in person. Those who attended by Zoom were: Christina Frick, Frick Vet Clinic, Kyle Beckwith, Beckwith Mortuary, Sheriff King, Brent Hemken, USD 495 School Board President, Lance Duft, Larned Police Lieutenant, Kara Rath, City Clerk, Vanessa Feldman, Larned Head Dispatcher, Kara Lawrence, EMS Director, Shaun Boese, EMS, Brian Stahlecker, KDOC Risk Management, Doug McNett, Pawnee County Attorney, Chief Orth, Police Chief, Melanie Urban, University of Kansas Health Systems Pawnee Valley Campus Hospital Administrator, Lesia Dipman, Larned State Hospital Superintendent, Brad Eilts, City Manager, Wayne Gore, KDOC Deputy Warden, Laura Smith, County Living Administrator, Cindy Smith, USD 495 Nurse, Antonio Hearn, Larned Police Department, EMS and Larned Fire Department

Cheryl began the meeting by giving the updated COVID - 19 numbers: 1 Cases in the last 7 days, 3 Cases in the last 14 days, 1 Active case. 595 Community Cases, 1132 Cases including Larned Stated Hospital, Larned Correctional Mental Health Facility and Larned Long Term Care Facilities, and 14 deaths. Pawnee County is currently in Green.

Cheryl stated vaccine process is still in phase two, until the Kansas Department of Health and Environment is ready for stage three. Cheryl stated phase two is giving the vaccines to 65 and older as well as teachers.

Sheriff King stated that this week is National Weather Awareness Week.

Wayne Gore, Kansas Department of Corrections stated they have given 400 doses of vaccine, 74 staff members have been vaccinated, 272 Inmates.

Melanie Urban, stated the hospital has not received any vaccines for phase two. Melanie reported the hospital has 0 COVID cases currently. The hospital is still only allowing 1 visitor per patient, staff is wearing mask and eye protection.

Doug McNett received an email from the Kansas supreme court stating they will be allowing courts to have in person trials soon.

Laura Smith stated Country Living is allowing 1 person per resident to come visit in patient's room with a mask.

Brad Eilts gave an update on the natural gas situation, stated some places are declaring a financial emergency.

Lesia Dipman stated February 19, 2021 was their last COVID case at the Larned State Hospital. Lesia stated the hospital is going to Phase C, which is starting to open to larger group gatherings.

Cindy Smith stated staff is continued to get vaccinated if desired. The school's system is currently in yellow, which still mandates masks for the students and teachers.

Phillip Hammeke stated Pawnee Heights is currently following the Counties COVID guidelines for masks.

Antonio Hearn updated the group that Pawnee County is currently in a burn ban.

Vanessa Feldman, stated for Weather Awareness week in Larned the emergency sirens will sound, Tuesday March 2, 2021 at 10:00am. Vanessa stated for the cities of Burdett, Garfield and Rozel sirens will sound at 6:00pm on Tuesday March 2, 2021.

Next LEPC meeting is scheduled for two weeks.

11:22

Commission reconvened to regular session.

Kara Lawrence, Doug McNett, Vanessa Feldman, Kara Rath, Sheriff King, Kyle Beckwith, and Cheryl Hoberecht joined the Commissioners in discussing EMS. Kara Lawrence stated that she had sent budget reports to Commissioner Rein who was absent. Kara Lawrence discussed some items she believed to be important to include in the Town Hall Meetings.

Commissioners discussed next meeting to discuss the Ambulance would be March 22, 2021 @ 11:00am.

Cheryl Holberecht, Pawnee County Health Department Administrator updated the commissioners on grants the Health Department was awarded.

12:15

Commissioner is recessed for lunch until 1:30pm

1:30

Commissioner's reconvened

2:00

Melanie Urban, University of Kansas Pawnee Valley Campus Administrator, in person, George Harms, Shae Veach, and Andy Beck by telephone presented monthly hospital updates. Melaine presented Administrator Report. Melanie stated she has received 100 Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA). Melanie explained that they have invited people to join the Community virtual Town Hall meeting to review community health indicators and gather feedback opinions on key community health needs. Melanie explained Cards for COVID from youth in other states. Melanie stated Rehabilitation Services was able to purchase two hypervolt massage guns and a low-level laser to aid in their recovery with physical therapy, these items were donated by Bruce Gatterman in care of the Pawnee Valley Community Hospital Auxillary in memory of Ann Gatterman.

Melanie updated the commissioners that Emergency Department would be transitioning back to 5 Advanced Practice Providers, to allow more flexibility in scheduling.

Melanie stated Ed Habash, PA out of HaysMed is adding an additional Urology Clinic day, Mr Habash will be seeing patients the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month.

Melanie stated Pawnee Valley Community Hospital was awarded the Patterson Family foundation Grant. Melanie stated with this grant the hospital was able to purchase Ultraviolet DI-360 Room Sanitizer, a new floor steamer as well as a Room Fogger to assist in room cleaning.

Melanie updated Commissioners on 5 Star customer Service Training for associates will be going to quarterly for new Associates and Auxiliary Staff.

Melanie gave a COVID-19 stat on test collections and positive tests, as well as COVID-19 Vaccines.

George stated the financial reports look different due to the hospital new Workday systems.

George reviewed the Balance Sheet - GASB with depreciation and interest report. It was explained balance increase was due to receipt of FY20 cost report settlement and interim payments. Accounts Receivable and Estimated Amounts Due to Third-Party Payers were also discusses and explained.

George reviewed and explained Income Statement -GASB with Depreciation & Interest.

Melanie discussed Pawnee Valley Medical Associates, stated volumes are still down and the reasons she believed were due to more social distancing. Melanie stated that they Clinic will be offering extended hours beginning Tuesday, March 9th the clinic will be open until 7:00pm.

2:35

Motion for Adjournment.

Philip Hammel

For the Board:

Shary Rein

Attest: