

**March 2, 2020**

Minutes taken by Kathleen Foster

- 9:00 Reconvene. Rein, Hammeke, and Lewis present.  
Call to Order. Flag Salute
- 9:02 Received from the Clerk's Office: Minutes from February 24 for review/edit,  
Vouchers, Checks Agenda, Resolutions for PVCH.  
Review of vouchers and checks.
- 9:02 Add Tim George Public Building Commission to the March 16 Agenda for 9:00.  
Meet in the first-floor conference room in the Courthouse. This is a public meeting.
- 9:24 Lewis shared that the Legislative Committee will be meeting with the Legislators in Topeka on March 5<sup>th</sup>. Previous meeting was canceled by the Legislators so they could attend the Chief's Victory Parade in KC.  
Cheryl Hoberrecht, County Health Department.
- 9:24 Rein – Recessed Commissioner's Meeting.  
Called to order the Board of Health.
- 9:35 Cheryl Hoberrecht updated the Commissioners about the Coronavirus and also reported there were no confirmed cases in Kansas.  
Rein – Adjourned Board of Health Meeting.  
Reconvened Commissioner's Meeting.
- 9:40 Hammeke reported that vouchers were approved. Lewis noted that Road and Bridge vouchers need to be signed by Kurt Demel.
- 9:41 Board approved January 6 and January 27<sup>th</sup> minutes. Aimee Norris, Deputy II, Clerk's Office, Attest.
- 10:30 Lewis asked Aimee Norris to make sure Joel Davis, Public Information Officer, received a copy of minutes for the Pawnee County Commissioners' website. Post the minutes.  
Kurt Demel, Road and Bridge Department, presented completed Bridge Inspection Report.  
There are 149 bridges in Pawnee County to maintain.  
Overall Pawnee County Bridges are in good shape. Two were categorized as deficient: OS-20 AND OS-74 These deficiencies are being addressed.  
On page 39 of the report is the Plan of Action.
- 10:36 Demel reported that overall, the Pawnee County Bridges are in good shape.  
Demel presented the Road Maintenance Agreement from Kirkham and Michael regarding the Electrical Transmission Line project by Grain Belt.

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Demel reported the submitted agreement is being reviewed by him and his department. It eventually must be reviewed by Doug McNett, County Attorney, and then sent for approval by the Commissioners.

- 10:40 Demel presented the County Road Crossing Permit application from Dreiling Construction, LLC. To be signed by the Commissioners. **Motion by Lewis to sign the Pawnee County Road Crossing Permit with Dreiling Construction, LLC. as presented. Hammeke seconded. Motion passed. Permit signed by Commissioners.**
- 10:45 Demel presented Pawnee County Drainage Study for O and Toles roads prepared by the engineering firm of Kirkham and Michael Associates. Included in the report are two maps indicating flood issue and possible drainage solutions.
- Demel shared that there is more than one potential solution but need further input and discussion before any one solution is agreed upon. He described each possible solution illustrated on the maps. However, he also added an additional solution involving placement of large drainage pipes.
- Lewis asked Demel to prepare and bring a map illustrating the location of drainage pipes that would alleviate the flooding issue.
- Rein inquired how long the entire project would take.
- Discussion among Commissioners Rein and Lewis with Demel as to a time frame to meet with, not only him regarding further clarification of potential drainage solutions, but the various entities possibly responsible for the expense of the project, i.e. school, city, county, township.
- Future meetings with Demel and, as needed, additional departments are scheduled as follows:
- 3/9/2020 at 1:30 Demel will provide updated report on possible drainage solutions as well as other pertinent information.
- 3/16/2020 Meeting with Kirkham and Michael, personnel from city, school, township and County Road & Bridge.
- 3/23/2020 Report conclusions in a public meeting. Kirkland and Michael, Commissioners, County Road & Bridge Department, school, city, and townships representatives to be present.
- 11:21 Demel provided the quotes for purchase of tractor. KanEquip submitted the most favorable price by providing a Sourcewell and GB KanEquip 30% discount.
- Motion by Lewis to approve the KanEquip quote for the 145 mowing tractor as presented at the cost of \$73,226 taken from the Road & Bridge per Equipment Replacement Budget. Hammeke seconded. Motion passed.**
- 11:28 Demel made a report on Road Repair and Emergency Repair and the FEMA assessment and payment.

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Hammeke asked when the County would receive FEMA monies for damage. Monies are pending.

11:30 Demel requested approval from the Commission to acquire or add on to the existing County Road & Bridge Department Building an office large enough to roll out maps and other documents as needed, as well as to meet with the various department and business representatives regarding Road & Bridge business.

Commissioners discussed possibilities. Agreed to direct Kurt Demel to “pencil out” costs and look at alternatives for an appropriate space for office/meeting room.

11:35 Robert Hammeke, representing Grant Township. Discussion with Commissioners about townships paying into Burdett EMS.

11:45 Recess.

12:00 Reconvene in the First Floor Conference Room of Courthouse. Commissioners: Rein, Lewis, and Hammeke present along with EMS Exploratory Committee members and others representing service to the citizens of Pawnee County. Meeting is regarding EMS service for the Burdett and outlying western edge of the county.

Rein introduced Commissioners Philip Hammeke and Deborah Lewis.

Rein opened the meeting by stating the objective of the meeting was to START a conversation regarding county-based EMS service to include the Burdett, Rozel, and Garfield areas.

Rein asked the audience to discuss:

- a. What such a service would look like?
- b. How would it work?
- c. What is the desired outcome?

Doug McNett, County Attorney, presented a power point presentation with County EMS/Ambulance Exploratory Committee information. Each audience member received a handout of the power point slide presentation with detailed information at their disposal to take notes and add comments.

Initial questions to address:

- Is there a need for a countywide EMS/Ambulance Service?
- Is there support for a County Operated EMS/Ambulance Service?

Current Budgets:

Larned EMS is budgeted in 2020 for \$937,150 of which \$627,150 is tax payer money”.

Burdett EMS is budgeted in 2020 for \$210,000.

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**Current Staff:**

Larned EMS employs 1 full time administrator, 6 full time technicians, 4 part time technicians, 9 PRN technicians. Burdett is staffed by volunteers.

Rein added that the source for some of the power point information comes from a report conducted by KDHE that he encouraged all interested parties to further read and review the chats and graphs.

Opening up with the discussion to those in attendance, Rein asked again, “What do you want regarding EMS? How do we provide the best for the citizens we represent? What is most efficient and most effective?”

Rein invited the audience to share their ideas, questions, and information.

Individuals in the audience represented policy makers of the cities of Garfield, Burdett, Rozel, Larned and policy makers of PVCH, Larned EMS, Larned Fire Department, Pawnee County Health Department, Pawnee County Sheriff’s Office, Pawnee County Treasurer’s Office, Pawnee County Commissioners as well as local citizens and local newspapers the Tiller and Toiler and the Great Bend Tribune.

During the hour-long meeting, various representatives shared information, questions, and opinions. Some of the highlights included:

- a. Level of services provided by the Burdett EMS and the Larned EMS.
- b. How other counties have organized and funded their EMS.
- c. Satellite EMS locations, need for service in far western part of the County and how Burdett EMS serves this need.
- d. License and qualifications of EMS and levels of training
- e. Ambulance availability and number of ambulances.
- f. Funding and budgetary monies
- g. Timeline projection
- h. Legal issues regarding funding.
- i. Reassure community that intent of these meetings is to provide the best EMS service at affordable cost.

Larned EMS provides:

24-7 ALS EMS service

Advanced training for paramedics and technicians.

Three Ambulances. One staffed at all times.

Ambulance and services can transition quickly. Two other ambulances are available to assure 911 coverage.

There are two type 3 ambulances. One Type 2 ambulance used for transfer.

The difference in the categorization is that one ambulance chassis is smaller

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The Larned EMS covered 900 calls for 2019. The EMS service is able to be in direct contact with a hospital ER staff during transport and begin ER care. Upon arrival at hospital, ER care is in progress as patient is transferred to the hospital staff.

The Burdett EMS provides:

The service is not a paid staff, but strictly volunteer.

Those involved have been offered and received varied degrees of training. There is one ambulance.

EMS provides basic life support. Ambulance answers calls as far out as the western edge of the county. Transport of patient has been to Hays, Jetmore, Kinsley, and Larned. If patient is not critical, EMS staff transports to facility of patient's request.

The Burdett EMS are BLS providers starting "hospital basic care" in transit.

Although the Burdett EMS is not able to monitor and transmit in real time information to hospital ER, they do monitor and give information to ER on arrival.

Commissioner Hammeke, restated that if Burdett would be the Pawnee County EMS satellite, service to the western part of the county would be enhanced. Hammeke reiterated the need and peace of mind with assurance that EMS services were available to roll out of Burdett.

Doug McNett, County Attorney, noted a breakdown of various EMS budgets would be helpful information.

1:30 Rein adjourned the Committee Meeting.

1:45 Reconvene Commissioners' Board meeting. Present, Rein, Hammeke, Lewis.

Commissioners discussed the outcome of the first EMS committee meeting.

Agreed that in informational gathering stage.

Committed to move toward satisfactory resolution.

Rein signed minutes for January 2020 & some February minutes.

12:01 Adjourned.



For the Board:  
Chair, Board of Commissioners



Attest:  
County Clerk