

July 6, 2020

7:00 a.m.

Reconvene. Chairperson Rein, Commissioners Hammeke and Lewis. and Joel Davis, Public Information Officers, present.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Aimee Norris, Deputy Clerk. Gave Commissioners Agenda, Payable Checks, Payroll Vouchers, Payroll Checks, and first drafts of the June 22 and June 29 Commissioner Meeting Minutes.

Discussed the General Ledger from June. Checks have been cut for the Employee Benefits fund, but checks still need to be deposited.

8:30 a.m.

Rein had a conversation with Bryce Wachs, USD #495 Superintendent. Wachs had just received the calculations for the ditch from the engineers. He will work on getting the calculations to the Road & Bridge.

Rein and Wachs also discussed the possibility of using some of the SPARK fund to get broadband service with a fiber line to every home in Pawnee County.

8:00 a.m.

Joel Davis gave the Commissioners a letter from the CDBG grant. They are wanting the grant money back because it has not been used yet.

8:15 a.m.

Aaron Koehn, Vonfeldt, Bauer, and Vonfeldt's. Rein asked if the timeliness of deposits shows up in the audit. Koehn said if it's two weeks later, they will have a discussion with the management. If it's often they may audit more.

Rein asked if Vonfeldt, Bauer, and Vonfeldt's had a chance to review how to set up the SPARK and Cares Act funds. Koehn said they may be about to with agreed upon procedure, but he would have to get back to the Commissioners. Lewis stated, it would be nice if they could set up the funds with the Treasurer's Office and Vonfeldts could do the reconciliation.

Reviewed the proposed budget for 2021.

8:45 a.m.

James Burdett, Clerk's Office. Brought in payables vouchers.

8:46 a.m.

Koehn reviewed the District Coroner Fund 112. Lyle Noordhoek will be paid out of this fund until it runs out, then switch to Fund 110, Coroner in the General Fund.

The last time the District Coroner was billed out to the other counties was in 2016. Rein will touch base with Judge Gatterman to see what the agreement is and if the other counties in the 24th Judicial District need to be billed.

Rein asked Koehn about the credit card line item. They will discuss it again and follow the recommendations given by Vonfeldt, Bauer, and Vonfeldts.

The Road and Bridge department needs to meet with Koehn to review the budget.

11:03 a.m.

Proposed Employee Policy. Those present were Doug McNett, County Attorney, Tina Keeler, Appraiser, Joel Davis, Deputy Register of Deeds, Tami Keenan, County Treasurer. Doug presented a draft and an edited copy of Resolution No. 2020-R-008, A Resolution Concerning Employee Policy Designation of Workplace. McNett contacted Work Comp and there is coverage to and from a Department Head's house, but not inside the house if something were to happen. Employees are not expected to perform duties at the Department Head's home.

If there is an injury or illness and the Department Head needs to bring work home, the Department Head may ask for the employee to bring them work, however, it is on a short-term basis and must be approved by the Board of Commissioners.

Rein asked the Department Heads and Elected Officials if they take offense to this Resolution. Each one said no.

Hammeke moved to approve Resolution No. 2020-R-008, a Resolution Concerning Employee Policy Designation of Workplace as presented. Lewis seconds motion. Motion carries (3-0).

11:03 a.m.

LEPC. Members present: Bob Rein; Pawnee County Commission Chairperson, Philip Hammeke; County Commissioner, Deborah Lewis; County Commissioner, Doug McNett; County Attorney, Joel Davis; Public Information Officer. Present via zoom: Cheryl Hoberecht; Public Health Officer, William Nusser; Larned City Mayor, Kendal Lothman; Sheriff's Office, Brian Stahlecker; LSH Safety Officer, Dusty Thacker; Pawnee Valley Community Hospital, Lesia Dipman; Larned State Hospital, Joni Barringer; Larned State Hospital, Alex Filbert; Executive Director of the Larned Area Chamber of Commerce, Sheriff Scott King; Wayne Gore, Larned State Hospital, Bud Tabler; Tiller and Toiler, Kurt Demel; Road and Bridge, Melonie Urban; Pawnee Valley Community Hospital, Kara Lawrence; EMS, Chuck Orth; Larned Police Chief, Bryce Wachs; USD #495 Superintendent, Antonio Hearn; Larned Police, Shaun Boese; Rozel Fire Department, Cindy Smith; USD #495 School Nurse, Bradley Eilts; Larned City Manager.

Cheryl Hoberecht, Public Health Officer. There have been approximately 341 tests for COVID in Pawnee County, which is a rate of 48.6/1000. Due to increased testing and the upswing of cases in Florida and Texas, the tests are coming back slower. There are currently 23 tests pending. Providers are doing a good job of testing.

William Nusser, Larned City Mayor. Brought up a hardship some families are experiencing. If they take their child to the Doctor for an appointment and they get tested for COVID, the parents are having to stay home with them until the test results come back. With the results taking longer, this is creating a workplace hardship for the working parents.

Rein asked Cheryl for the Travel Advisory List. He has been asked by citizen if someone travels to a place on this list, is it a mandatory quarantine when they return? Cheryl replied, yes it would be if the Health Department knows about it. Rein asked, if someone has been known to travel and another person reports it to the Health Department, will they have to quarantine? Cheryl replied, yes, if the Health Department knows about travel to one of the places on the Travel Advisory list, the Health Department will require them to quarantine.

The Travel Advisory is for Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Florida, South Carolina, Cruise ship or river cruise passengers, and International travelers.

Kendal Lothman, Sheriff's Office. Nothing new to report.

Brian Stahlecker, Larned State Hospital Safety Officer. Nothing new to report.

Dusty Thacker, PVCH. Nothing new to report.

Leisa Dipman, Larned State Hospital. Asked Cheryl to speak on Health care workers if they travel. Cheryl replied they may continue to work but needs to be approved by the Public Health Officer and the department.

Joni Barringer, Larned State Hospital. Nothing new to report.

Alex Filbert, Executive Director of the Larned Area Chamber of Commerce. Nothing new to report.

Sheriff King. Nothing new to report.

Wayne Gore, Larned DOC. There is mandatory masking for staff unless they are in their office. The offenders are encouraged to wear masks, but it's not mandatory.

Doug McNett, County Attorney, asked Gore what kind of mask they are wearing. Gore replied they are made by KCI in Lansing.

Rein asked Gore if the offenders are mandated to wear masks. Gore replied they cannot force offenders to wear masks right now, as nothing has come down from Administration yet.

Kurt Demel, Road & Bridge Manager. Nothing new to report.

Melanie Urban, Pawnee Valley Community Hospital. Nothing has changed. They are practicing universal masking, staff wears eye shields, and there may be one visitor per patient. Wants to remind everyone to continue social distancing and to wear masks if they can.

Kara Lawrence, EMS. Nothing new to report.

Police Chief, Charles Orth. Nothing new to report.

Bryce Wachs, USD #495 Superintendent. Nothing new to report.

William Nusser, Larned City Mayor. Nothing new to report.

Antonio Hearn, Larned Police. Sent Doug an email about the Resolution. Nothing new to report.

Shaun Boese, Rozel Fire Department. Nothing new to report.

Cindy Smith, USD #495 School Nurse. Nothing new to report.

Julie Kramp, The Center for Counseling and Consultation. They are still in Phase A. They are asking all employees and clients to wear masks.

Doug McNett, County Attorney. Commissioners did not have a special meeting about the Governor's Order. There is an enforceability issue and a question of how to consistently enforce the order. Nothing prevents private property or businesses to ask that masks are worn.

The SPARK grant awards approximately 1.2 million dollars to Pawnee County. The rules provide guidance on what the money cannot be spent on, but very little guidance on what it can be spent on.

McNett suggests having a conversation with Alex Filbert, Executive Director of Larned Area Chamber of Commerce to discuss ways to spend the money. The Resolution for the SPARK grant is due on the 14th or 15th of July. It must be in place by the next Commissioner's meeting on July 13th. Rein would like to have Bryce Wachs, Alex Filbert, Casey Robinson, and one representative from each town.

Lewis would like to include the medical field. Melanie Urban doesn't think they need to have any of the dollars but would like to be part of the conversation.

Rein wants to hear from anyone whose agency would qualify.

Rein asked for the input of the LEPC on the topic of the County Resolution in regards to the Governor's Order.

McNett. There have been many posts on social media including maps of the counties that will enforce wearing of masks. This is causing public confusion.

Cheryl Hoberrecht doesn't want the Commissioners to adopt the Governor's Order, but wants the public to be their own protection. Although they can't enforce the order, she would like to see verbiage about encouraging masks to be worn.

Melonie Urban agrees with Hoberrecht.

Rein has talked to a lot of people in last five days. Many people said they would not wear a mask if they were ordered to. Rein feels there is a lot of muddy water on this topic and the Government has gone about this the wrong way.

Rein made a personal statement on the matter on Facebook. After his statement, he received many messages from citizens asking him to encourage others to wear a mask.

Rein has decided to encourage others to wear masks when appropriate. Rein feels it shouldn't be about choosing a team on masking and he is on board with encouraging people to wear a mask.

William Nusser, Larned City Mayor. Asked if there is a time frame on the Governor's order? Rein replied it does in the context of the legislation that's in place.

Rein wanted to let everyone know on the LEPC meeting he will be voting in favor of the Resolution which would resend the Governor's order.

Bradley Eilts, Larned City Manager, is confused about the SPARK funds. It might be beneficial for the group to sit down and discuss it.

Cheryl Hoberrecht asked if it can be used to help citizen pay bills that they got behind on due to COVID.

Eilts stated that Helping Hands ministries help with bills. Most of the people on the list for disconnection notices are normally on it.

Rein will send an invite to everyone on the LEPC to discuss the allocation of funds. It will be an early morning conference call.

11:50 a.m.

Cheryl Hoberecht gave Commissioners the Barton County and Pawnee County Health Department Letter of Understanding for October 1, 2020 through September 30, 2021.

Hammeke made a motion to accept the Letter of Understanding between Barton and Pawnee Counties. Lewis seconds the motion. Motion carries (3-0). Pawnee County Commission Chairperson, Bob Rein signed.

Hoberecht said that it was suggested to her to use some of the SPARK funds for bonuses for essential workers who worked during the stay at home order.

Commissioners reviewed the Public Health Order of Pawnee County Regarding Masks or Face Coverings in Public.

12:20 p.m.

Lewis moved to adopt the Public Health Order of Pawnee County Regarding Masks or Face Coverings in Public as presented. Hammeke seconds the motion. Motion carries (3-0).

Rein tells Aimee Norris, Deputy Clerk, the cap on vacation needs to be taken off for Road & Bridge and any vacation that came out since the beginning of COVID needs to be put back. This policy was approved at a previous meeting.

Doug McNett reviewed the letter for the CDBC grant. Rein would like to try to get ahold of them to ask about it.

12:35 p.m.

Lewis moved to adjourn meeting. Hammeke seconds motion. Motion carries (3-0).

Adjourned until July 13, 2020 at 7a.m.



**For the Board:
Chair, Board of Commissioners**



**Attest:
County Clerk**