

September 21, 2020 page 1

- 9:00 a.m. Reconvene. Chair Rein, Commissioners Lewis and Hammeke present. Pledge of Allegiance.
- Aimee Norris, Deputy Clerk gave Commissioners the September 14th minutes for initial review, payable vouchers, and payable checks.
- Rein asked if the bills for KAC and KCCA were looked into. Norris replied that a check for \$325.00 was paid on 2/24/2020. A check was sent to KAC in march. The Clerk's office called KAC, they had just received some mail from March last week and think the check may be in there. They will get back to the Clerk's office.
- 9:40 a.m. **Payable vouchers and checks were approved.**
- 9:42 a.m. Cheryl entered meeting. The county is in yellow on the matrix. There have been 14 new cases in the last two weeks.
- 9:45 a.m. Doug McNett, Tina Keeler, Tami Keenan present. Tami Keenan, Treasurer presented SPARK fund vouchers to be signed.
- McNett discussed the need for a revised budget for SPARKS, as needed, by October 15th.
- Keenan has received a check from Community Corrections from the State of Kansas from the 24th Judicial District. Keenan will get with Gail Antenen, Community Corrections Director, to find out where to put the money.
- 10:52 a.m. **Hammeke moved to adjourn to executive session from 10:52-11:02 am. for personnel to include Tina Keeler and Doug McNett. Motion carries (2-0). No action taken.**
- Lewis moves to allow Appraiser's office to replace staff to replace a staff member who resigned. Hammeke seconds. Motion carries (3-0).**
- 10:05 a.m. Aaron Koehn, Vonfeldt, Bauer, and Vonfeldt gave Commissioners a draft copy of the Audit report for review.
- Reviewed 5th draft of 2021 budget.
- Rein requested copies of budget from Koehn.
- 11:00 a.m. Ruth Searight, County Clerk; Doug McNett, County Attorney; Tami Keenan, County Treasurer; William Nusser, Katelyn Nusser Simmons & Simmons; Martha Scranton, Clerk's Office.
- Martha Scranton gave Commissioners a copy of the Interim, Clerk's report, and GL. Scranton exits meeting.
- Rein, stated the Board has asked Department Heads to clamp down on their budgets. There is a Hiring freeze and overtime freeze. There is to be no overtime without prior approval. If a department needs to pay overtime, they come to the Board of Commissioners to ask. Mainly it's Kurt's Department in Road & Bridge who needs overtime.

September 21, 2020 continued, page 2

Rein, per Interim, the Election Budget is 114% over budget. Requests an explanation and what the plan is in place to get through until the end of the year.

Rein, the Clerk's budget is currently at 80% and it doesn't look like the budget will hold out until the end of the year.

Rein, there have been many checks to ES&S.

Ruth Searight, County Clerk replied the Election Department is \$25,000 over and above what it usually is. They have gotten back \$7,000 from the Secretary of State. When an employee in the office answered the phone call from the Secretary of State, they were asked how many voting boards we had. We usually had four voting places. We only got paid for four. The Secretary of State is trying to get more money reimbursed.

The \$7,000 was credited to the wrong account and will be transferred back into the Election fund.

Election is going to go over budget. Hopefully we will get more reimbursement up to the \$25,000.

Rein to Searight, what can we expect to see in order to budget for? Ruth replied there is more to be sent in.

Rein, there has been no communication that the budget would go over. They could have set aside some SPARKS funds. What further costs can we expect?

Searight, we will be over.

Rein, how much do we need to expect? Can we come up with something? Has this happened before in this magnitude?

Searight, no.

Rein, do we keep paying these bills without communication?

Searight, we need to pay for election.

Rein, is it good management to let it go?

McNett, we get the point that we have to pay for an Election but why are you hiring employees just because it's an Election.

Searight, we always have hired employees to help with Election. We just got the ballot proofs back. We need help setting up for Election, and someone to call to get workers.

McNett, we see part time workers in your office working, but will you be there working with them?

Searight, no because of my Doctor's note.

McNett, I do not have a letter from your Doctor.

Searight, it is in the Commissioner's mailbox.

September 21, 2020 continued, page 3

Rein, none of the Commissioner have seen a note. We did not take it out, so it's still in there. Is it normal or not normal to be at 114% of the Election budget?

Searight, over the last 29 years I've only been over budget twice.

Rein, that's what lends us to be concerned.

Lewis, you are hiring a lot of different people.

Searight, I'm not hiring anyone.

Lewis, we have an \$8,000 check, what is this?

Searight, it has to do with something else.

Rein, pertaining to the Clerk's budget, the board has not heard of this \$8,000 check until after the fact.

Searight, let's stick to Election.

Lewis, we need to discuss all things with the general ledger.

Searight, I visited with William Nusser to help out through the end of the year.

Tami Keenan, County Treasurer, I have a problem with that.

Rein, did you discuss this with the board?

Searight, no I didn't.

Rein, The Clerk's budget will be 20% over budget from last year at this time and you are asking to hire additional staff? Hasn't the county paid your staff? Have they paid you to do this work?

Searight turns to Nusser. Nusser states he has no idea of how much time it will take.

Lewis, why should William be paid to do your work?

Rein, the tax payers already paid for the work to get done.

Searight, there have been extenuating circumstances because of the Corona Virus. Staff members have been quarantined three times.

Rein, don't see any one else with budget problems. All other Department heads are communicating with the Commissioners.

Lewis, and they present a plan for fixing it.

Rein, so Ruth, you are asking us to contract out your responsibilities.

Searight, there is more than one problem.

Nusser, I'm not interested in engaging unless everyone is on board. If the county needs help, we are willing to help but only if the County needs and wants the help.

Lewis, we appreciate that. Ruth's employees haven't been trained on the computer.

September 21, 2020 continued, page 4

Searight, there are reasons why she (pointing at Aimee Norris) hasn't been trained on the computer.

Lewis, Tami knows the system and can show staff how to do the work if you aren't going to be here to show them.

Rein, we had to put you on the agenda to get you to discuss this. It costs what it costs is an unreasonable response.

Rein, is there a contract, referring to the \$8,000 check again. We need to see it.

Searight, it was an agreement.

Rein, was it a verbal or written agreement?

Searight, I don't know.

Rein, do we have an invoice? Rein finds the invoice attached to the voucher. The charge is \$200/hour.

Searight turns to Nusser, if you can work something out with the Commissioners, I wish you well. I've got to move on.

Keenan to Searight, I am willing to help your staff. You are the Department Head and should be able to do it. You need to be doing it.

McNett to Searight, you need to step down if you can no longer do the duties.

Rein, where does this money come from? We still haven't seen a contract.

Lewis to Searight, we may need to take money out of your salary.

Searight turns to Nusser, thank you for coming.

Searight starts to walk out of meeting at 11: 36 a.m.

McNett, can we make a statement that you (Ruth) refuse to do the general ledger?

Searight stops at the doorway, do not put words in my mouth. Ruth exits meeting.

Keenan, technically we should not pay it.

Lewis, the staff just needs to be shown how to do it.

Rein, staff is not allowed to do anything without permission.

Nusser, I don't want to do the work unless it is agreed upon. We would charge around \$60/ hour.

Keenan talked to Pam, she was going to charge \$100/ hour but Thompson/Rueters said to charge what they would have, which is \$200/hour.

Lewis, and Pam kept calling Tami for answers.

Rein, should we send an \$8,000 check? It has not been signed.

September 21, 2020 continued, page 5

Keenan, Ruth keeps saying Pam just retired, but she has been retired for 2-3 years. It takes time to get back into it and she had many questions.

Rein, there isn't a contract signed here.

Nusser, his office is not going to move forward without everyone being on board.

Rein asked what is the status of the empty position?

Hammeke and Lewis don't know, Ruth hasn't asked.

Nusser leaves meeting.

Keenan, we still don't have an answer to what financial records left the courthouse to be driven to a person we don't have a contract with.

Lewis suggests writing down these questions and have Ruth answer them on public record.

Rein, we will work on our questions through Doug McNett.

Rein, do we let every office do this? Can we take the money out of Ruth's salary?

Doug McNett, doesn't have an answer.

Rein, how can we get control of this? It's irresponsible to continue to pay.

Keenan will get her questions ready.

Rein estimated the county has paid \$56,000 to ES&S and we haven't even gotten to the General Election yet. The total Election Contractual budget is \$50,000.

11:55 a.m.

Kurt Demel, Road & Bridge heard back from the Collision claim. There is a claim on the #25 2011 Mack truck. KCAMP will get back to them.

Demel has received another resignation notice.

Hammeke moves to accept PCN for resignation on 9/24/2020 for Road & Bridge. Lewis seconds motion. Motion carries (3-0).

Wade Reed would like to rescind this resignation for 9/25/2020.

Discussed road updates. They will finish up overlaying asphalt roads this week and begin sealing.

Met with AT&T, will get in writing where the lines are, North of the Elementary School by the end of the week.

Kurt hasn't gotten all of the information from the architect for the school.

Mowing tractor still isn't working.

Kurt is concerned with overtime with snow removal coming up. Are the other departments freezing overtime?

Lewis, the only other department with overtime is the Health Department. Try to keep it down as much as possible.

September 21, 2020 continued, page 6

Demel reports that Roger Higgins is trying to save the trees out at Camp Pawnee.

Rein is holding on to checks from Election and will take them to Tami.

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

Adjourned until September 28th at 9:00am.



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



**Attest:
County Clerk**

