

Pawnee County Commissioners - November 23, 2020

- 9:05 Call to Order by Chairman Bob Rein. Also present Commissioner Hammeke.  
Flag Salute.  
Commissioners given: Agenda, vouchers and checks to be signed, corrected minutes for 10/19 & 26, 11/2 & 9 and minutes of 11/16 to be corrected.  
Chairman signed minutes as corrected for 10/19 & 26 and 11/2 & 9. Signature attested by Rebecca Detrich, deputy.  
Run-off election for Sawmill Twp. Delayed until next week.  
Commissioner Lewis joined the meeting.  
Discussed possible face mask mandate.  
9:40 Steve Lewis – Comfort Systems. Reported on repairs to air conditioning system at Court Services in the Annex. Problems in the Chiropractor’s office. At some time, dampers were removed in the 4 rooms so there is no way to regulate temperature. Commissioners Rein and Hammeke agreed to go on with the work. Commissioner Lewis excused herself from the discussion.  
Reviewed vouchers and signed corresponding checks. Signed Election Book for the Nov. 3 General Election.  
10:30 Cheryl Hoberrecht – Public Health. Reported 144 new cases of the Virus in the last 15 days; 84 in the last 7 days; 90 active cases. Slowed down last week.  
Buddy Tabler and Doug McNett joined the meeting.  
Staffing needs – would like a full time permanent nurse. Commissioners asked if candidate would accept a 6 month temporary position with benefits. Money must come out of 6mil/1% budget.  
New Phone system – used to have 15 phones, now have 13. Will check with Golden Belt Telephone. Also if hire a new person, will need a new computer.  
10:40 Sheriff Scott King joined the meeting. According to Public Health Order issued by the Commissioners on July 6, 2020, he has nothing to enforce.  
Until the Governor Kelly makes an executive announcement mandating the wearing of masks, the Public Health Order remains in effect. Her announcement is expected on Wednesday.  
The Public Health Order was issued to exempt the county in accordance with House Bill HB20-16.  
10:55 Mark Wagner – emergency management – joined the meeting  
Private entities like Dillons can call police on people not wearing masks and prosecute on grounds of Trespass.  
Most agreed it was an education issue. People need to be reminded about the importance of wearing masks.  
The County does not need to change Public Health Order until they have an executive order from the Governor

A voucher for INA alert for payment of half the work done on the Security System is needed. Mark will see to it

**Lewis moves to sign a release of Escrow Deposit for ITC Great Plains, LLC for construction and maintenance of 345 kV transmission lines in Pawnee County as presented. Hammeke seconds. Motion passes. Aimee Norris, deputy is present to attest the signatures.**

Kyle from Golden Belt Telephone is collecting a list of problems with the new system and will discuss them with the Commissioners next Monday. He answered questions on how to use and log in to the Zoom system.

Mark Wagner reported that the Zoning Board need to hold a hearing about conditional use permits for 3 cell towers. A time will be set.

Cheryl Hoberrecht brought in a copy of Health Notice from Logan County about the COVID regulations. Will give a copy to Doug McNett.

Scott, Doug, Mark, Cheryl and Buddy left meeting.

Corinne Ray, a health care worker, spoke to the Commissioners about research that shows wearing masks can be harmful. Believes masks should be a choice. Asked Commissioners to consider information presented.

11:30

Mark Wagner brought in a voucher to pay half the cost of the new security system being installed by INAAalert out of SPARKS funds.

11:50

**Lewis moves to recess the session until 12:45. Hammeke seconds. Motion passes.**

12:45

Session resumes. Doug McNett joins the meeting.

After much discussion, it was decided the Public Health Order dated July 6, 2020 will remain in effect. Will work with the media to remind the public of the Order and the importance of wearing masks.

1:15

Commissioner Lewis left the meeting.

Doug reported that Tim wanted to know what to do with the old phones. Joel joined the meeting and will see if phones can be donated or what and will make recommendations.

2:00

Conference Call with PVCH. Hammeke and Rein in attendance. Melanie Urban and George Harms on the phone.

Melanie Urban reported that Jewel Davis, is the new PVMA Clinic Office Manager. 3-D Mammo exams started November 11 and they will be holding Virtual Coffee Hours in Larned and Great Bend to advertise it. The Fire Marshall Survey done Sept.29 showed no deficiencies. The FY21 budget had been approved.

Total of 11 COVID-19 patients admitted to the hospital to date. Total of 142 COVID-19 tests collected. In the last 7 days positivity rate was 29%. Total # Associates COVID-19 positive or quarantined for exposures to date 50 out of 122.

George Harms went over the financial report. It was a down month but financials for the year are solid.

Discussed vaccine – Cost, availability to staff then who. Will work with Pawnee Co Health Department.

2:50

Meeting adjourned.

  
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For the Board:

Chair, Board of Commissioners

  
Ruth Scarright by ~~Rebecca Duda~~

Attest:

County Clerk

Deputy 11