

Pawnee County Commissioners  
Minutes  
February 28, 2022

- Present: Commissioners: Lewis, Rein and Clerk Rein
- 9:01 Meeting was called to order, opened with the pledge of allegiance.
- Commissioner Lewis updated the other Commissioners regarding Public Transportation Van. Commissioner Lewis stated the vehicle has been broke down for approximately 4 weeks. Commissioner Lewis stated that Morris Smith Ford in Larned has stated they would look at it.
- Commissioner Rein updated the Commissioners on the short meeting and invitation with the Ford County Commissioners to the Leadership Meeting on March 21, 2022.
- Clerk Rein presented payable vouchers and checks, approved minutes for signature as well as draft minutes for review and corrections, Payroll report and checks, Clerk Rein presented the Tax Evaluation statement for the Topeka Street Annex.
- 9:43 **Motion by Rein, Seconded by Hammeke to enter into executive session for a period of 5 minutes from 9:42 to 9:47 for the purpose of personnel to include Clerk Rein. Motion passes. 3-0.**
- 9:47 Regular Session reconvened; no action taken.
- 10:00 Kurt Demel, Road & Bridge, Noxious Weed, Zoning Department, Kurt presented a payroll change notice for a new employee.
- Motion by Hammeke, Seconded by Rein to accept payroll change notice for Road and Bridge for Equipment Op II/Chemical Sprayer to begin February 22, 2022. Motion passes, 3-0.**
- Kurt updated the Commissioners on the CDL courses at Barton Community College. Kurt stated some of the course is online, while the driving portion of the class will be done at the college. The CDL class is an 8-week course. Additional discussion took place, Kurt will also visit with Pawnee County Attorney McNett.
- Kurt presented a County Road Crossing Permit for Kansas Gas Service on M5 Road.
- Motion by Rein, seconded by Hammeke to approve County Road Permit for Kansas Gas Service to replace a 4" natural gas transmission pipeline on M5 Road. Motion passes 3-0.**
- Kurt updated the Commissioner on the Zoning meeting that took place on February 24 with Mid-West Energy, Kurt presented minutes from the meeting. Kurt stated Mid-West Energy gave presentation regarding their project they are requesting permission on.
- Motion by Hammeke, Seconded by Rein to approved Resolution 2022-R-003 Resolution for Mid-West Energy conditional use permit to replace current sub-station. Motion Passes 3-0.**
- Kurt presented quotes to replace the 1990 Flatbed Semi Trailer for Hauling equipment. Kurt stated he received quotes from Murphy John Deere and Berry Tractor. Kurt explains the bid from both dealers. Kurt stated the trade-in value

for the current trailer is \$20,000.00. The Trailer is on the Road & Bridge projected equipment purchase schedule.

**Motion by Rein, seconded by Hammeke to approve the purchase of a low boy trailer from Berry Tractor Supply in the amount \$61,965.84, to be paid out of Road and Bridge equipment fund. Motion passes 3-0.**

10:35

Those present for the Department Head meeting were: Commissioners, Joel Davis, Register of Deeds, Rod Wheaton, Solid Waste Department Head, Cheryl Hoberecht, Health Department Head, Tim Taylor, Maintenance Supervisor, Gail Antenen, Community Corrections Director, Kara Lawrence, EMS Director, Tina Keeler, Appraiser, Sheriff Scott King, Undersheriff Larry Atteberry, District Judge Bruce Gatterman, Tami Keenan, Treasurer, Kyle Grant, Pawnee County Extension, Stacey Rein, County Clerk, Sabrina Quinn, Deputy Clerk

Commissioner Lewis opened up the meeting.

Joel Davis Register of Deeds stated his office has been busy with Opera house building history and information, Emergency Management-Joel discussed Civic Ready, a mass notification system that the Pawnee County will be using to relay information to employees as well as information for the general public. Joel explained that citizens will have to register to receive this notification for weather alerts. Joel stated he is still getting training and hopes to have it launch soon. Joel explains people can go out to the app store and download the Civic Ready app to have it on their phones or can sign up for these services by going to Pawneecountykansas.org. Joel explained the messages from the County are internal and staff will not be able to reply to these messages. Joel announced that a Storm Spotter Training on the March 14<sup>th</sup>, and is free.

Rod Wheaton, Solid Waste Department Head- Explained they had two loads freeze in the container due to the drastic weather change last week. Rod stated they had stopped the trash trucks from dumping in the containers on Tuesday due to the trash still being frozen. Rod stated all the debris is cleaned out of the Opera House, asbestos has been removed by the State, and the mercury thermostats have been removed. Rod explains he has requested that 80% concrete be recycled.

Gail Antenen, Community Corrections Director, stated she has been working on grant writing. She states the door to the annex stopped working last week. Door is currently working. Tim stated the door system is under warranty, so no charges will be incurred for the parts only for the labor.

Chery Hoberecht, Health Department Head stated COVID cases are down for the last couple of weeks. Cheryl stated at home test are available at the Health Department if anyone is in need. Cheryl is currently writing grants for the health department. Vaccinations have slowed down. Cheryl stated her staff still travels to the nursing home and assisted living for vaccinations. State Hospital is now performing their own vaccinations and the health department is no longer going out there.

Kara Lawrence, EMS Director stated they are staying busy even with the COVID numbers down. Kara stated she is spending one to three days a week in the Burdett office during the day. Kara is hoping to begin EMT Classes this summer. Kara stated grants are available for those interested in taking the EMS classes. Kara stated EMS week is in May 15<sup>th</sup> through May 21<sup>st</sup> Kara stated she is hoping to having their first event the end of April.

Tina Keeler, Appraiser, stated evaluation notices were sent out last week. Tina stated she is currently working on Hearing's, personal property and oil and gas.

Tina stated that she is going to be enforcing BOTA, (board of tax appeal) paperwork for all who wish to have equipment placed under farming.

Judge Gatterman, District Judge stated he attended the Judges meeting in person for the first time in two years. Discussion took place in their meeting regarding COVID restriction, they will be following the Governor's recommendations as she passes them down.

Tami Keenan, Treasurer stated her staff is working with the new system, Tami stated they have been working out of two systems for the last two months. Tami asked all department heads with deposits to get them to the Treasurer as soon as they are aware of a deposit so the new system can be used efficiently. Tami stated her staff is working very hard to get the information learned. CIC states it will take about a year to get the whole system up and going.

Sheriff King stated a check was received for the State of Kansas (KDADS) for the John Colt escape. Undersheriff Atteberry stated the jail is getting full again. Lots of Drugs and Domestics, overcrowding could be a possibility. Inmates will then have to be shipped to either Ford or Barton Counties to be held. Sheriff King stated one of the Dodge Durango went down last week, first real break down. Sheriff King gave an update of the meeting with the Governor. Sheriff King and Undersheriff Atteberry met with the security auditors from Larned State Hospital. Auditors stated a book was found from 2013 audit where many of the same issues were present. Undersheriff Atteberry stated he has been meeting with Superintendent to see what changes have taken place to security. Sheriff King said getting mental health evaluations is not getting any better. Two patients were admitted to Pawnee Valley Community Hospital for mental crisis, due to not having space at the Larned State Hospital.

Stacey Rein, County Clerk stated her staff has been doing a lot of training. Stacey stated the first payroll has been completed on CIC this week. Clerk Rein stated she would like to begin emailing payroll advices to those who have supplied an email address, a test email will be sent prior to going live with the payroll advices being sent. Clerk Rein, asked to have each department head meet with her to see what reports they would like to see. New payable vouchers will be distributed later this week, with new acct numbers and revenue acct numbers.

Kurt Demel, Road and Bridge Department Head stated he is working on OS75 bridge paperwork, and survey. Kurt stated he's also working on getting Pleasant Ridge box structure. His crew has been working by the elementary school retention pond, making it larger. Kurt announced he is back to a full crew. Kurt stated he and another employee will be in Topeka next week for Noxious Weed Conference.

Kyle Grant, Extension Office stated they will begin interviews on May 3<sup>rd</sup> interview date for the open staff position. Kyle stated he is learning summer food buddies. Learning how this work, getting ready for fair.

11:00

Sheriff King, and Undersheriff Atteberry met with the commissioners regarding KDADS check and the letter received from KDADS. Discussion took place and the letter from KDADS will be published in the Tiller and Toiler as well as letting the citizens know that a reimbursement check was received.

11:36

Cheryl Hoberecht, Health Department Head met with the Commissioners regarding Grants that will be coming due by March 15<sup>th</sup>.

Cheryl explained that she is still in the process of writing the grants and she would not be available next Monday for signatures. Cheryl asked if Chairman Lewis could sign the grants once they are prepared. Cheryl also explained that

Pawnee County Health Department works with Barton County Health Department for some services. Cheryl explains Barton and Pawnee Counties share a social worker as well as getting help with other issues.

Cheryl stated that she believes she could pay for two years of the Civic Ready annual statement from grant funds.

**Motion by Hammeke, seconded by Rein to grant Chairman Lewis approval to sign grant application when prepared by the Pawnee County Health Department as necessary. Motion passes 3-0.**

Clerk Rein presented an abatement 2021-53 from the appraiser's office.

**Motion by Rein, seconded by Hammeke to approve abatement 2021-53 as presented. Motion passes 3-0**

Clerk presented Treasurers quarterly report. Commissioners reviewed report.

**Motion by Rein, seconded by Hammeke to approve Treasurer's quarterly report ending January 31, 2022, as presented. Motion passes. 3-0**

**12:09 Motion by Rein, seconded by Hammeke to enter into executive session for a period of 5 minutes from 12:09 to 12:14 for purpose of personal to include Clerk Rein. Motion passes, 3-0.**

**12:14 Regular session reconvened; no action taken.**

**12:47 Motion for adjournment**



For the Board:  
Chair, Board of Commissioners



Attest:  
County Clerk