

Pawnee County Commissioners

Minutes

March 22, 2021

Present: Commissioners: Rein, Lewis and Hammeke, County Clerk Rein

9:08 Pledge of the Allegiance.

County Clerk Rein presented Commissioners with draft minutes for review and corrections, approved minutes for signature, payable vouchers with checks.

Clerk Rein updated Commissioners on the storage of unused email address from retired or terminated employees. It was discussed and decided the County Attorney should advise on how long the content in those email addresses would need to be available.

9:44 Kurt Demel, Road and Bridge Department Head presented Road Crossing Permit for Northern Natural Gas company on F road, west of 10th Avenue and 20th.

Motion by Lewis, seconded by Rein to approve Road Crossing Permit for Northern Natural Gas from F road, 10th Avenue and 20th as written. Motion passes. 3-0

Kurt presented Road Crossing Permit for Midwest Energy Inc. from 280th Avenue M road and G road. Kurt stated they will be putting lines up in the East ditch.

Motion by Lewis, seconded by Rein to approve the Road Crossing Permit for Midwest Energy, Inc. from 280th Ave, H road, to M road as written. Motion passes. 3-0

Kurt presented three quotes for the two - R15-foot mowers he will be replacing. Kurt stated he asked some other County Road departments regarding the low bid, and those counties stated they have had no problems with the equipment. Kurt explains that he will be trading the mower from Solid Waste and giving them one of the mowers from the Road and Bridge Department so that Solid Waste equipment also get updated equipment.

Motion by Rein, seconded by Lewis to approve the purchase of two R15 Flex Wing Rotary Cutter Mowers as presented in the amount of \$27,625.30. Motion passes. 3-0

Kurt updated the Commissioners on sanding county roads: Steskal, Ward, S. Rozel, John Lewis, Frizell, Posey.

Kurt presented and explained 2020 Annual Noxious Weed Eradication Progress report.

Motion by Rein, seconded by Lewis to approve the 2020 Annual Eradication Progress Report for Pawnee County as written. Motion passes. 3-0

Kurt presented and explained Annual Noxious Weed Management Plan for 2021.

Motion by Lewis, seconded by Rein to approve 2021 Annual Noxious Weed Management Plan as written. Motion passes. 3-0

Kurt updated the Commission on equipment repairs. Kurt explained the possibility of purchasing of a bigger used truck to pull gooseneck trailer for skid steer and attachments. Kurt explains current truck just is not big enough to

handle the load of the trailer and the equipment without needing frequent repairs.

Commissioner discussed Zoning issue with Kurt and explained that his department seems to already be part of zoning, more discussion took place.

A motion by Lewis, seconded by Rein to appoint Kurt Demel as Interim Zoning Director. Motion passes. 3-0

11:00

Meeting regarding Ambulance took place those present in person were: Commissioners, Linda Schadel, Burdett Mayor, Chelsea Hoffman, Burdett EMS Director, Kelcee Pelton, Larned EMS, Kara Lawrence, Larned EMS Director, Deputy Josh Huff, Interim Emergency Management Director, Cheryl Hoberecht, Pawnee County Health Administrator, County Clerk Stacey Rein. Those present by Zoom: Brad Eilts, City of Larned Manger, Kara Rath, Larned City Clerk, Sheriff King, Shaun Boese, Larned EMS, Aaron Koehn, VonFeldt Bauer and VonFeldt.

Pawnee County Commissioner Chairman Hammeke opened the meeting. Commissioner Rein gave some background regarding the meetings and how the Commissioners had hoped to have Town Hall meetings last year but was put on hold due to COVID 19. Kara Lawrence presented two options for PRN staff in Burdett, this would be for two staff to be on call 24/7, 365 days a year, should the County consolidate. Discussion took place on how Burdett's EMS would be structured. It was stated Larned and Burdett would have the same operation and structure. It was explained to those in the meeting, if the consolidation took place it would not be a Burdett EMS and a Larned EMS it would be one team giving the best care for the residents of Pawnee County.

Linda explains that Burdett has two accounts for the EMS one operation fund and a Memorial Fund. Linda stated her council has put together some questions for the Commissioners as followed:

Would there be a truck/ambulance in Burdett? Yes, there would be an ambulance or emergency vehicle stationed in Burdett.

Would Burdett be required to do patient transfers? No, per procedural plan

Would Burdett EMS still be able to practice at the same level of care they are currently doing? Kara Lawrence stated she spoke with EMS Medical Director Dr. Van Norden. It was stated that all Emergency Vehicles would be stocked with the same medication and supplies as well as using the same protocol.

Would there be one EMS Director? Yes, there would be one EMS director for continuity.

What would happen to the Operation Fund the City of Burdett currently has? It would be transferred to Pawnee County, should the City of Larned transfer EMS service to Pawnee County.

Commissioners asked Mayor Schadel, where Burdett's operating funds come from. Mayor Schadel stated from City of Rozel, Townships and from billing of runs. Mayor Schadel stated the City stopped billing those agencies once talks began of the county taking over last year and due to the hardships on the Townships.

It was asked how much Burdett would have to pay for the EMS service? Commission explained the County would not be billing Burdett, Rozel or any of the Townships, it would all be budgeted through Pawnee County. Commissioner Rein explained it would be one entity, one team.

Would patient have the option to choose which hospital they are taken to? Kara believed it would at the patient's discretion as long as the hospital they were choosing was appropriate for their need of care.

Staffing question was asked, Kara Lawrence stated currently there are three ambulances, and an emergency vehicle and Burdett has one ambulance. Kara stated she tries to keep enough staff to run 2 ambulances currently.

Commissioners asked about the ambulance in Burdett, it was stated that it is an older ambulance and not very comfortable to drive on the county roads. Kara Lawrence stated from a patient view it is probably not very comfortable due to the roughness of the ride.

Mayor Schadel stated Burdett was looking at purchasing a new ambulance before these talks began. If Burdett purchases a new ambulance who would incur the cost? It would have to be determined later.

Discussion took place as to where Town Hall meeting may be held in Burdett and Rozel more talk on meeting place would continue closer to April.

Kara Lawrence stated she did some research on how other County EMS work.

Chelsea Hoffman, Burdett EMS Director asked who would be the Director of the County EMS? Currently that has not been discussed. Chelsea asked how it would work with the volunteers in Burdett would they be cut out of the rotation. Kara stated no one is trying to cut anyone out of working, the need for workers in Burdett would be a necessity.

Commissioners scheduled a meeting on Monday March 20 @ 12:00pm to visit Burdett and talk some more about the Ambulance situation.

11:49 **A motion by Rein, seconded by Lewis to enter into executive session for a period of 5 minutes from 11:49 to 11:54 for Personnel to include County Clerk Rein. Motion passes. 3-0**

11:54 **A motion by Lewis, seconded by Rein to enter into executive session for a period of 5 minutes from 11:55 to 12:00 to include County Attorney McNett and County Clerk Rein.**

12:00 Regular session reconvened. No action taken.

Commissioners to adjourned for lunch until 1:00pm

1:00 Commissioner recessed to attend the LEPC meeting. In person attending: Commissioners, Cheryl Hobercht, Deputy Josh Huff, Interim Emergency Management Director. Dustin Thacker, University of Kansas Pawnee Valley Campus Director of Cardiopulmonary, Sheriff King, Kara Lawrence, Larned EMS Director, Bryce Wachs, USD 495 Superintendent, Lesia Dipman, Larned Stated Hospital Acting Superintendent, Wayne Gore, Larned Correctional Mental Health Facility, Brad Eilts, City of Larned Manager, Chief Orth, City of Larned, Lance Duft, City of Larned Lieutenant, Cindi Smith, USD 495 Nurse, Antonio Hearn, City Larned Police Officer, Doug McNett, Pawnee County Attorney, Julie Kramp, Center for Counseling.

Dusty stated that the hospital has had zero cases admitted to the hospital. Dusty stated the hospital is starting to open some, patient who are at the hospital for outpatient services are now allowed to eat at the cafeteria. Patients can have one visitor at a time, with multiple visitors per days.

Cheryl updated those attending with the COVID stats: 3 Cases in the last 14 days, 2 Cases in the last 7 days and 1 Current Active case. Pawnee County has

had 605 cases and 1143 including LSH, LCMHF, LTF. Pawnee County has had 13 deaths, and 1000 doses of vaccines have been administered. Pawnee County is currently in Green.

Bryce stated that 50% of the school's staff has been vaccinated.

Lesia stated they are giving second doses at the Larned State Hospital.

Wayne stated that 406 out 678 offenders have been vaccinated as well as 100 staff members.

Deputy Josh Huff, Interim Emergency Management Director introduced himself and gave a brief history. Josh stated that he could be located either at the Pawnee County Courthouse or at the Pawnee County Sheriff's Department. Commissioner Rein stated that in the Interim the Emergency Management position has been placed under the Pawnee County Sheriff.

Julie stated the Center for Counseling has opened Monday - Thursday from 1:00pm to 4:00pm for walk-in intakes for those feeling the need for mental health services. Julie stated that ages 12 to 15 seem to be most affected by the crisis of COVID 19, Julie stated they have seen 7 children with the Zero Reason Why program.

1:18 Commissioners reconvened to regular session.

1:18 Cheryl Hoberecht, Pawnee County Health Administrator asked to discuss personnel.

A motion by Lewis, seconded by Rein to enter into executive session for a period of 10 minutes from 1:27 to 1:37 for personnel to include Cheryl Hoberect, Pawnee County Health Administrator.

1:37am Reconvened to open session. Discussion took place. No action taken.

Cheryl presented a payroll change notice for staff in the Health Department.

A motion by Lewis, seconded by Rein to approve payroll step increase effective March 19, 2021 for the health department as written. Motion passes. 3-0

A motion by Lewis, seconded by Rein to appoint Pawnee County Clerk Stacey Rein as the Freedom of Information Act Officer for the county. Motion passes. 3-0

Commissioners and Clerk Rein discussed the Historical collection for the county. Clerk Rein informed the Commissioners that she was informed the scanner is currently broke. Clerk Rein stated that the equipment is almost 10 years old. Clerk Rein asked the Commissioners what information they would like to see preserved with the scanning once the scanner if repaired if that is possible.

2:18pm Motion for Adjournment.

Philip Hammel

For the Board:

Stacey Rein

Attest: