

Pawnee County Commissioners

Minutes

April 12, 2021

- Present: Commissioners: Rein, Lewis and Hammeke, County Clerk Rein
- 9:03 Pledge of Allegiance.
- County Clerk Rein presented Commissioners with approved minutes for signature, payable vouchers with checks, payroll vouchers, General Ledger, Interim statement, and clerk's report.
- 10:00 Clerk Rein and the Commissioners discussed section 300 of the Policy Manual for Pawnee County Employees.
- 11:00 Sheriff Scott King and Josh Huff, Interim Emergency Management Director to discuss the budget of Emergency Management and the equipment needs for the office.
- Discussion took place regarding the FEMA grant.
- Motion by Rein, seconded by Lewis to appoint Josh Huff as Emergency Management Director; to be paid 20 hours per week by Emergency Management budget at his current hourly wage under the supervision of the Sheriff.**
- Emergency Management Director Josh Huff discussed the need for a new computer.
- Discussion took place regarding 800MHz service in the county. Josh explained that Emergency Services are currently using towers placed by the State System, which leaves a large void in Pawnee County. Josh explained it is very expensive to get the towers installed.
- 11:42 Melanie Urban, University of Kansas Health Systems Pawnee Valley Campus Administrator was present, with Shae Veach, Vice President of Regional Operations and George Harms, Chief Financial Officer University of Kansas, Health Systems HaysMed, Andy Beck, University of Kansas Health Systems HaysMed joined via telephone. Melanie reviewed events the hospital has participated in the past month.
- Melanie gave information on the new employees that were hired at University of Kansas Health Systems Pawnee Valley Campus: Angela Beck will be a new provider for the Emergency Department, Kris Tarlton, CRNA will be a new anesthesia provider for the hospital. Melanie stated that Ed Habash, PA will be adding an additional day to the specialty clinic each month. Melanie updated the Commissioner that the Pain Clinic will resume after a pause due to limited availability of anesthesia services during the COVID 19 pandemic. Melanie stated that Pawnee Valley Medical Associates will be extending their hours on Tuesdays from 5:00 PM to 7:30 PM, with nurse appointments available for allergy shots as well and scheduled and walk in appointments.
- Melanie informed the Commissioners that Pawnee Valley Medical Associates will be offering Sports Physicals, May 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> for a \$10 donation back to the child's school.
- Melanie updated the Commissioners on new directory signage for Family Medicine and Specialty Care Clinic.

Commissioners were update on COVID -19 hospital statistics, with one admit over the weekend that was transferred out for further care.

Melanie stated that the Auxiliary ladies are back and working at the hospital, volunteering at the front entrance, and running the gift shop.

Shae stated that Jess Curtis, Cardiologist from Hays Med will start offering services at Pawnee Valley Specialty Clinic.

George reviewed the financial reports with the Commissioners, discussion took place regarding some of the line items of the Income Statement.

Shae discussed the Hospital bonds with the Commissioners for next year budget.

12:25 **Motion by Lewis, seconded by Rein to enter into executive session for a period of 15 minutes from 12:25 to 12:40 for the purpose of Personnel to include Melanie Urban, George Harms, and Shae Veach.**

12:40 Reconvened to regular session, no action was taken.

12:45 Motion to recess until 1:00pm.

1:00 Commissioners reconvened. Kurt Demel, Road & Bridge Department Head discussed closing the road on U road and 155<sup>th</sup> to 160<sup>th</sup> due to the damage of bridge OS 75. Discussion took place regarding repair or replacement for the bridge. Commissioner Rein stated he would contact the Township Trustee to discuss this bridge.

**Motion by Rein, seconded by Lewis to approve payroll change notice for Road & Bridge from a Step 1 to a Step 2. Motion passes. 3-0**

**Motion by Rein, seconded by Lewis to approve a payroll change notice for Road and Bridge to begin on April 19, 2021 starting at step 1. Motion carried. 3-0.**

Kurt discussed work being done on Larned Township drainage project. Additional discussion took place regarding this project.

Kurt stated that his crew has removed the brush on 110<sup>th</sup> and R road to improve sight distance at the entrance on the east side.

Kurt stated that sanding was taking place on roads: Doll road, Toles Road, Hanston Road, Walnut Road and Posey Road. Grading was taking place on: Frizell Road, Couchman Road, Lyman Road, Posey Road, Bird, Road, Doll Road, Pawnee Rock Road and Macksville Road.

Kurt updated that Commissioner on repairs taking place on County vehicles.

Kurt stated that chemical mow was to take place around April 13, 2021.

Kurt updated the Commissioner on current zoning projects. Northern Natural Gas Company would be purchasing land in Valley Center Township to go from Agriculture to commercial and moving a driveway due to the placement of a transformer. Kurt stated that Midwest Energy company would be purchasing land in Grant Township that would be going from agriculture to commercial.

2:00 Cheryl Hoberecht, Pawnee County Health Department Administrator updated the Commissioners on COVID statistics. Cheryl stated that she believes a third of the county has received the COVID vaccine.

Cheryl stated that she will be issuing an Order to Quarantine instead of a Recommendation to Quarantine to stop any confusion of whether a person must quarantine.

Cheryl stated that there was currently six people in quarantine.

2:23

Motion to adjourn.

Philip Hammele

For the Board:

Stacy Rein

Attest: